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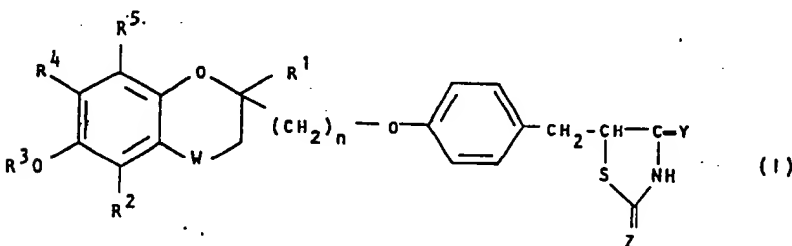
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Thiazolidine derivatives, their preparation and compositions containing them.

The compounds of formula (I):



[in which:

R¹ and R² are the same or different and each represents hydrogen or C₁-C₈ alkyl;

R³ represents hydrogen, an acyl group, a (C₁-C₈ alkoxy)-carbonyl group or an aralkyloxycarbonyl group;

R⁴ and R⁵ are the same or different and each represents hydrogen, C₁-C₈ alkyl or C₁-C₈ alkoxy, or R⁴ and R⁵ together represent a C₁-C₈ alkylendioxy group;

n is 1, 2 or 3;

W represents the -CH₂-, >CO or >CH-OR⁶ group (in which R⁶ represents any one of the atoms or groups defined for R³ and may be the same as or different from R³); and Y and Z are the same or different and each represents oxygen or imino)

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof have various valuable therapeutic effects on the blood system and may be prepared by a process which includes reacting a corresponding halopropionic acid derivative with thiourea.

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THIAZOLIDINE DERIVATIVES, THEIR PREPARATION AND
COMPOSITIONS CONTAINING THEM

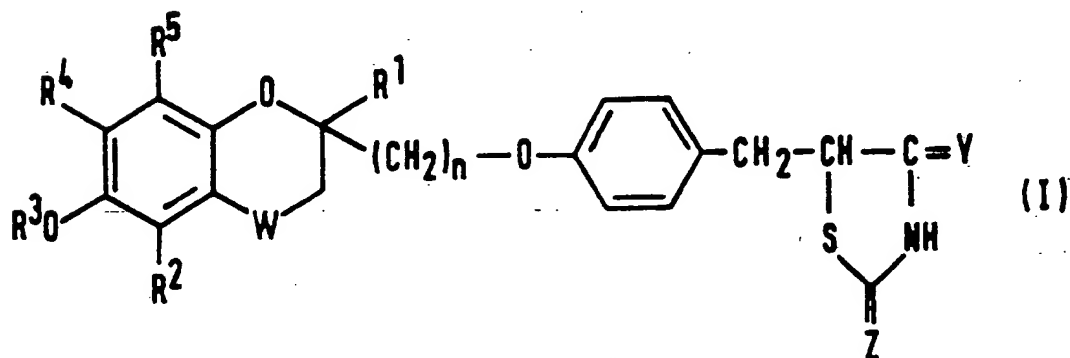
The present invention relates to a series of new thiazolidine derivatives, which we have found to have a variety of valuable biological activities, coupled with an exceedingly low toxicity. The invention also provides processes for preparing the compounds and pharmaceutical compositions containing them.

A number of thiazolidine derivatives are disclosed in European Patent Publication No. 8203 and in Chem. Pharm. Bull., 30, 3580 (1982). Certain of the thiazolidine derivatives disclosed in these documents have the ability to lower blood lipid and blood sugar levels, although these compounds are a little toxic.

We have now discovered a series of new thiazolidine derivatives which likewise have the ability to lower blood lipid and blood sugar levels and, in addition, have a number of other valuable activities, but which have very low toxicity. In general, the compounds of the invention show blood lipid metabolism ameliorating

activity. Specifically, the compounds have the ability to decrease the levels of blood lipid peroxides, blood triglycerides and blood cholesterol.

The compounds of the present invention are compounds of formula (I):



[in which:

R¹ and R² are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or a C₁-C₅ alkyl group;

10 R³ represents a hydrogen atom, a C₁-C₆ aliphatic acyl group, an alicyclic acyl group, an aromatic acyl group, a heterocyclic acyl group, an araliphatic acyl group, a (C₁-C₆ alkoxy)carbonyl group or an aralkyloxycarbonyl group;

R^4 and R^5 are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, a C_1-C_5 alkyl group or a C_1-C_5 alkoxy group, or R^4 and R^5 together represent a C_1-C_4 alkylenedioxy group;

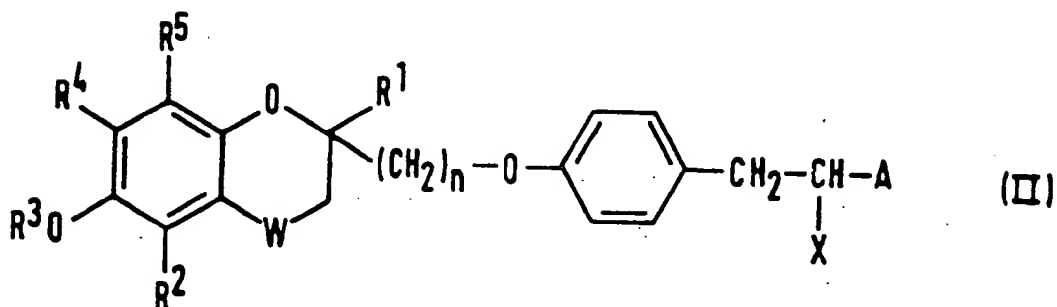
⁵ n is 1, 2 or 3;

W represents the $-CH_2-$, $>CO$ or $>CH-OR^6$ group (in which R^6 represents any one of the atoms or groups defined for R^3 and may be the same as or different from R^3); and

¹⁰ Y and Z are the same or different and each represents an oxygen atom or an imino ($=NH$) group] and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

The invention also provides a process for preparing the compounds of the invention by:

¹⁵ (a) reacting a halopropionic acid derivative of formula (II):



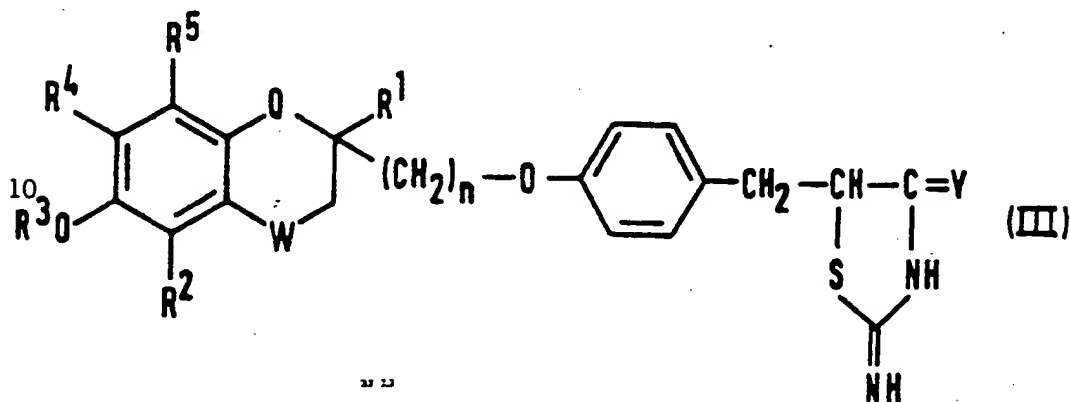
[in which:

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , \underline{n} and W are as defined above;

X represents a halogen atom; and

- 5 A represents a cyano group, a carboxy group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, a carbamoyl group or a group of formula $-\text{COO}(\text{M})_{\underline{m}}$, in which M represents a cation and \underline{m} represents the reciprocal of the valency of the cation M]

with thiourea, to give a compound of formula (III):



(in which R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , \underline{n} , W and Y are as defined above) and then,

- (b) if necessary, subjecting said compound to hydrolysis (which may be selective) to prepare said compound of formula (I).

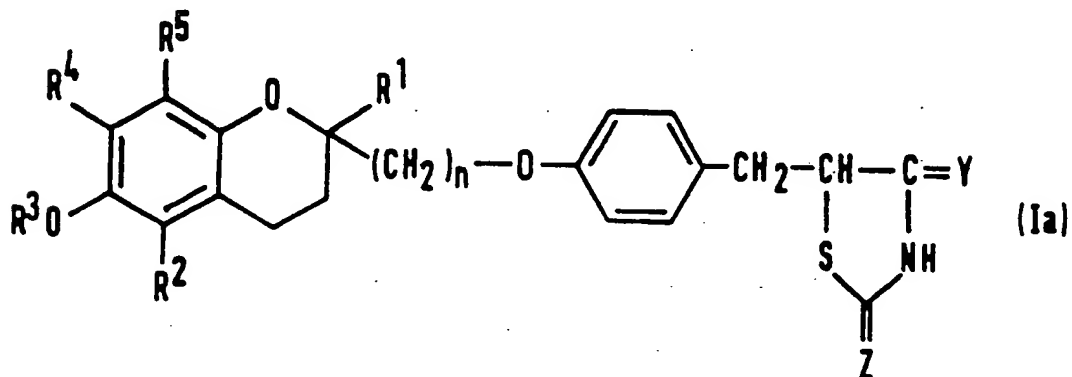
(c) optionally, where W represents a $>C=O$ group, reducing the compound produced in step (a) or step (b) to a compound where W represents a $>CH-OH$ group,

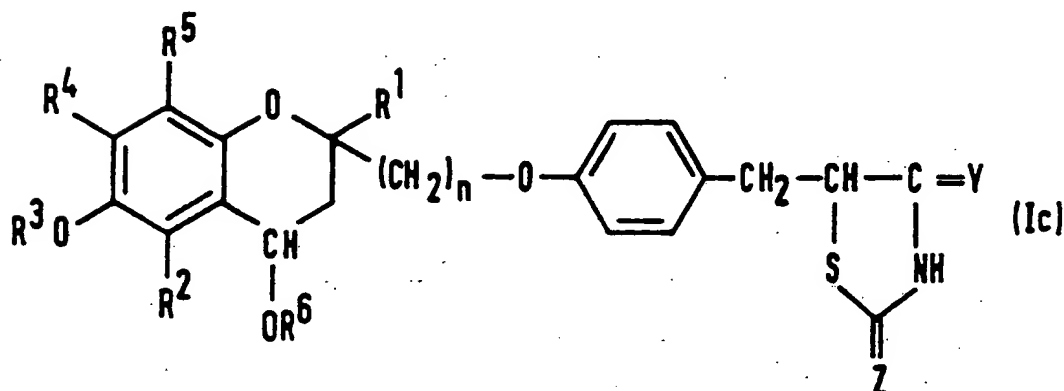
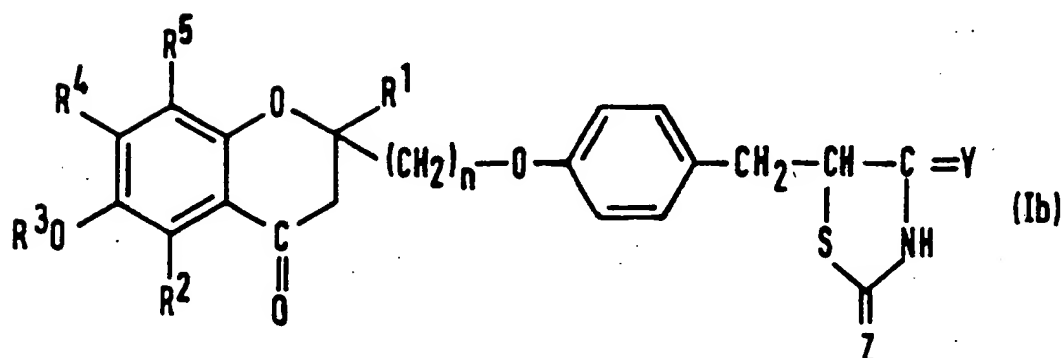
(d) optionally, where W represents a $>CH-OH$ group, acylating the compound to give a compound in which W represents a group of formula $>CH-OR^{6'}$ (in which $R^{6'}$ represents any of the groups defined for R^6 but not the hydrogen atom), and

(e) if necessary, salifying the product.

10 The invention also provides a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of hyperlipaemia or hyperglycaemia, which comprises at least one compound of the invention in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

15 The compounds of the invention, which are 5-[4-(chromanalkoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine derivatives, may be represented by the formulae (Ia), (Ib) and (Ic):





(in which R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , n , Y and Z
are as defined above) and include pharmaceutically
5 acceptable salts thereof.

In the compounds of the invention, where R^1 or
 R^2 represents an alkyl group, this may be a straight
or branched chain alkyl group having from 1 to 5 carbon
atoms and is preferably a primary or secondary alkyl
10 group, for example the methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl,
butyl, isobutyl, pentyl or isopentyl group.

Where R^3 , R^6 or $R^{6'}$ represents an aliphatic acyl group, this preferably has from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and may include one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds. Examples of such groups include the formyl, acetyl, propionyl, butyryl, isobutyryl, pivaloyl, hexanoyl, acryloyl, methacryloyl and crotonoyl groups. Where R^3 , R^6 or $R^{6'}$ represents an alicyclic acyl group, it is preferably a cyclopentanecarbonyl, cyclohexanecarbonyl or cycloheptanecarbonyl group. Where R^3 , R^6 or $R^{6'}$ represents an aromatic acyl group, the aromatic moiety thereof may optionally have one or more substituents (for example nitro, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkoxy, halo, alkyl or hydroxy substituents); examples of such aromatic acyl groups include the benzoyl, p-nitrobenzoyl, m-fluorobenzoyl, o-chlorobenzoyl, p-aminobenzoyl, m-(dimethylamino)benzoyl, o-methoxybenzoyl, 3,4-dichlorobenzoyl, 3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxybenzoyl and 1-naphthoyl groups. Where R^3 , R^6 or $R^{6'}$ represents a heterocyclic acyl group, the heterocyclic moiety thereof preferably has one or more, preferably one, oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen hetero atoms and has from 4 to 7 ring atoms; examples of such heterocyclic acyl groups include the 2-furoyl, 3-thenoyl, 3-pyridinecarbonyl (nicotinoyl) and 4-pyridinecarbonyl groups. Where R^3 , R^6 or $R^{6'}$ represents an araliphatic acyl group, the aliphatic

moiety thereof may optionally have one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds and the aryl moiety thereof may optionally have one or more substituents (for example nitro, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkoxy, halo, alkyl or hydroxy substituents); examples of such araliphatic acyl groups include the phenylacetyl, p-chlorophenylacetyl, phenylpropionyl and cinnamoyl groups. Where R^3 , R^6 or $R^{6'}$ represents a (C_1 - C_6 alkoxy)carbonyl group, the alkyl moiety thereof may be any one of those alkyl groups as defined for R^1 and R^2 , but is preferably a methyl or ethyl group, and the alkoxycarbonyl group represented by R^3 , R^6 or $R^{6'}$ is therefore preferably a methoxycarbonyl or ethoxycarbonyl group. Where R^3 , R^6 or $R^{6'}$ represents an aralkyloxycarbonyl group, the aralkyl moiety thereof may be any one of those included within the araliphatic acyl group represented by R^3 , R^6 or $R^{6'}$, but is preferably a benzyloxycarbonyl group.

Where R^4 and R^5 represent alkyl groups, they may be the same or different and may be straight or branched chain alkyl groups. They preferably have from 1 to 5 carbon atoms and examples include the methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, t-butyl, pentyl and isopentyl groups.

Where R^4 and R^5 represent alkoxy groups, these

may be the same or different and may be straight or branched chain groups, preferably having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms. Examples include the methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, isopropoxy and butoxy groups. Alternatively,

5 R^4 and R^5 may together represent a C_1-C_4 alkylenedioxy group, more preferably a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group.

Preferred classes of compounds of the present invention are as follows:

10 (1) Compounds in which R^3 represents a hydrogen atom, a C_1-C_6 aliphatic acyl group, an aromatic acyl group or a heterocyclic acyl group.

(2) Compounds in which Y represents an oxygen atom; R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each

15 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_5 alkyl group; R^3 represents a hydrogen atom, a C_1-C_6 aliphatic acyl group, an aromatic acyl group or a pyridinecarbonyl group; and R^4 and R^5 are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, a C_1-C_5 alkyl group

20 or a C_1 or C_2 alkoxy group.

(3) Compounds as defined in (2) above, in which: R^1 , R^2 , R^4 and R^5 are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_5 alkyl group; n is 1 or 2; and W represents the $-CH_2-$ or $>CO$ group.

(4) Compounds as defined in (3) above, in which R^3 represents a hydrogen atom, a C_1-C_5 aliphatic acyl group, a benzoyl group or a nicotinoyl group.

(5) Compounds as defined in (4) above, in which: R^1 and R^4 are the same or different and each represents a C_1-C_5 alkyl group; R^2 and R^5 are the same or different and each represents the hydrogen atom or the methyl group; and R^3 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_4 aliphatic acyl group.

(6) Compounds in which: W represents the $-CH_2-$ or $>CO$ group; Y and Z both represent oxygen atoms; \underline{n} is 1 or 2; R^1 and R^4 are the same or different and each represents a C_1-C_4 alkyl group; R^2 and R^5 are the same or different and each represents the hydrogen atom or the methyl group; and R^3 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_4 aliphatic acyl group.

(7) Compounds as defined in (6) above, in which \underline{n} is 1.

(8) Compounds as defined in (6) or (7) above, in which W represents the $-CH_2-$ group.

Preferred compounds among the compounds of this invention are those wherein: R^1 is a C_1-C_4 alkyl group, more preferably a methyl or isobutyl group, most

preferably a methyl group; R^2 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_4 alkyl group, preferably a hydrogen atom, or a methyl or isopropyl group, more preferably a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, most preferably a methyl group;

5 R^3 is a hydrogen atom, a C_1-C_4 aliphatic acyl group, an aromatic acyl group or a pyridinecarbonyl group, preferably a hydrogen atom, or an acetyl, butyryl, benzoyl or nicotinoyl group, more preferably a hydrogen atom or an acetyl, butyryl or benzoyl group,

10 most preferably a hydrogen atom or an acetyl group; R^4 is a hydrogen atom, a C_1-C_4 alkyl group or a C_1 or C_2 alkoxy group, preferably a methyl, isopropyl, t-butyl or methoxy group, more preferably a methyl or t-butyl group, most preferably a methyl group; R^5 is a

15 hydrogen atom, a C_1-C_4 alkyl group or a C_1 or C_2 alkoxy group, preferably a hydrogen atom, or a methyl or methoxy group, more preferably a hydrogen atom or a methyl group and most preferably a methyl group; n is 1 or 2, preferably 1; Y is an oxygen atom; Z is an oxygen

20 atom or an imino group, most preferably an oxygen atom; and W is a $-CH_2-$ or $>C=O$ group, preferably a $-CH_2-$ group.

Specific examples of compounds of the present invention are given in the following list:

1. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
2. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7-trimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
- 5 3. 5-[4-(7-t-butyl-6-hydroxy-2-methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
4. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2-methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
5. 5-[4-(2-ethyl-6-hydroxy-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
- 10 6. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
7. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
- 15 8. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-7-isopropyl-2-methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
9. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-5,7-diisopropyl-2-methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

10. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2-methyl-7-propylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
11. 5-[4-[2-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
- 5 12. 5-[4-[2-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7-trimethylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
13. 5-[4-[2-(7-t-butyl-6-hydroxy-2-methylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
14. 5-[4-[2-(6-hydroxy-2-methylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]-
10 benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
15. 5-[4-[2-(2-ethyl-6-hydroxy-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
16. 5-[4-[2-(6-hydroxy-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
- 15 17. 5-[4-[2-(6-hydroxy-5,7-diisopropyl-2,8-dimethylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
18. 5-[4-[2-(6-hydroxy-7-pentyl-2-propylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

19. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxy-2,5-dimethyl-
chroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
20. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxy-5-methyl-
chroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
- 5 21. 5-[4-(2-ethyl-6-hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxy-5-methyl-
chroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
22. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5-dimethyl-7,8-methylenedioxy-
chroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
23. 5-[4-[2-(6-hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxy-2,5-dimethyl-
10 chroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
24. 5-[4-[3-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-
yl)propoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
25. 5-[4-[3-(7-t-butyl-6-hydroxychroman-2-
yl)propoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
- 15 26. 5-[4-(6-hydroxychroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-
thiazolidine-2,4-dione
27. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,7-dimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)-
benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

28. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-5,7,8-trimethyl-2-propylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
29. 5-[4-(7-t-butyl-6-hydroxy-2-isopropylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
- 5 30. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2-isobutyl-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
31. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2-isobutyl-7-isopropylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
32. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-5,7,8-trimethyl-2-pentylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
- 10 33. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2-isopentyl-5,7-dimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
34. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
- 15 35. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-5,7-diisopropyl-2-methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
36. 5-[4-(7-t-butyl-6-hydroxy-2-methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one

37. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2-methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)-benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
38. 5-[4-(2-ethyl-6-hydroxy-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
- 5 39. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxy-2,5-dimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
40. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
41. 5-[4-(2-ethyl-6-hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxy-5-methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
- 10 42. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,7-dimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
43. 5-[4-[2-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
- 15 44. 5-[4-[2-(6-hydroxy-2-methylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
45. 5-[4-[2-(7-t-butyl-6-hydroxy-2-methylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one

46. 5-[4-[2-(6-hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxy-2,5-dimethyl-
chroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
47. 5-[4-[2-(2-ethyl-6-hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxy-5-
methylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-
5 one
48. 5-[4-[2-(6-hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxy-5-methyl-
chroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
49. 5-[4-[3-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-
yl)propoxy]benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
- 10 50. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-
ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2,4-diiminothiazolidine
51. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7-trimethylchroman-2-
ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2,4-diiminothiazolidine
52. 5-[4-(7-t-butyl-6-hydroxy-2-methylchroman-2-
15 ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2,4-diiminothiazolidine
53. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2-methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)-
benzyl]-2,4-diiminothiazolidine

54. 5-[4-(7-t-butyl-6-hydroxychroman-2-ylmethoxy)-benzyl]-2,4-diiminothiazolidine
55. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxy-2,5-dimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2,4-diiminothiazolidine
- 5 56. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxy-5-methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2,4-diiminothiazolidine
57. 5-[4-(2-ethyl-6-hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxy-5-methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2,4-diiminothiazolidine
58. 5-{4-[2-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl}-2,4-diiminothiazolidine
10
59. 5-{4-[2-(7-t-butyl-6-hydroxy-2-methylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl}-2,4-diiminothiazolidine
60. 5-{4-[2-(6-hydroxy-2-methylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl}-2,4-diiminothiazolidine
- 15 61. 5-{4-[3-(6-hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxy-2,5-dimethylchroman-2-yl)propoxy]benzyl}-2,4-diiminothiazolidine
62. 5-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

63. 5-[4-(6-benzoyloxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
64. 5-[4-(6-acetoxy-7-t-butyl-2-methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
- 5 65. 5-[4-(6-acetoxy-2-methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)-benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
66. 5-[4-(2-ethyl-6-isobutyryloxy-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
67. 5-[4-(6-butyryloxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
- 10 68. 5-[4-[2-(6-m-fluorobenzoyloxy-2,5,7-trimethylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
69. 5-[4-[2-(6-acryloyloxy-7-t-butyl-2-methylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
- 15 70. 5-[4-[2-(6-heptanoyloxy-2-methylchroman-2-yl)-ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
71. 5-[4-[2-(6-p-aminobenzoyloxy-2-ethyl-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

72. 5-[4-[2-(5,7,8-trimethyl-6-3'-thenyloxy)chroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
73. 5-[4-[2-(6-2'-furoxy-5,7-diisopropyl-2,8-dimethylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
74. 5-[4-[2-(6-8-naphthoxy-7-pentyl-2-propylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
75. 5-[4-(2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-6-nicotinoyloxychroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
- 10 76. 5-[4-[6-(3,5-dichlorobenzoyloxy)-7,8-dimethoxy-5-methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
77. 5-[4-(2-ethyl-7,8-dimethoxy-5-methyl-6-valeryloxychroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
- 15 78. 5-[4-(6-isonicotinoyloxy-2,5-dimethyl-7,8-methylenedioxychroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
79. 5-[4-[2-(7,8-dimethoxy-2,5-dimethyl-6-p-nitrobenzoyloxy)chroman-2-yl]ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

80. 5-{4-[3-(6-o-chlorobenzoyloxy-2,5,7,8-tetra-
methylchroman-2-yl)propoxy]benzyl}thiazolidine-2,4-
dione
81. 5-{4-[3-(7-t-butyl-6-m-dimethylaminobenzoyloxy-5-
5 methylchroman-2-yl)propoxy]benzyl}thiazolidine-2,4-
dione
82. 5-[4-(6-acetoxychroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-
thiazolidine-2,4-dione
83. 5-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,7-dimethylchroman-2-
10 ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
84. 5-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-
ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
85. 5-[4-(6-acetoxy-5,7-diisopropyl-2-methylchroman-2-
ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
- 15 86. 5-{4-[7-t-butyl-6-(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxy-
benzoyloxy)-2-methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy]benzyl}-2-imino-
thiazolidin-4-one
87. 5-[4-(6-acetoxy-2-methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)-
benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one

88. 5-[4-(2-ethyl-5,7,8-trimethyl-6-phenylacetoxy-chroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
89. 5-[4-(6-cinnamoyloxy-7,8-dimethoxy-2,5-dimethyl-chroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
- 5 90. 5-[4-(6-m-chlorobenzoyloxy-7,8-dimethoxy-5-methyl-chroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
91. 5-[4-(2-ethyl-7,8-dimethoxy-5-methyl-6-valeryloxy-chroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
92. 5-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,7-dimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)-
10 benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
93. 5-[4-[2-(6-o-methoxybenzoyloxy-2,5,7,8-tetra-methylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
94. 5-[4-[2-(2-methyl-6-pivaloyloxychroman-2-yl)-
15 ethoxy]benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
95. 5-[4-[2-(7-*t*-butyl-2-methyl-6-propionyloxy-chroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
96. 5-[4-[2-(6-ethoxycarbonyloxy-7,8-dimethoxy-2,5-dimethylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-

4-one

97. 5-[4-[2-(6-p-chlorophenylacetoxy-2-ethyl-7,8-dimethoxy-5-methylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
- 5 98. 5-[4-[2-(7,8-dimethoxy-5-methyl-6-3'-phenylpropionyloxychroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
99. 5-[4-[3-(6-benzoyloxycarbonyloxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-yl)propoxy]benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
- 10 one
100. 5-[4-(6-benzoyloxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2,4-diiminothiazolidine
101. 5-[4-(6-cyclohexanecarbonyloxy-2,5,7-trimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2,4-diiminothiazolidine
- 15 102. 5-[4-(6-acetoxy-7-t-butyl-2-methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2,4-diiminothiazolidine
103. 5-[4-(6-acetoxy-2-methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2,4-diiminothiazolidine
104. 5-[4-(6-acetoxy-7-t-butylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)-

benzyl]-2,4-diiminothiazolidine

105. 5-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,7-dimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)-
benzyl]-2,4-diiminothiazolidine

106. 5-[4-(6-acetoxy-7,8-dimethoxy-2,5-dimethyl-
5 chroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2,4-diiminothiazolidine

107. 5-[4-(6-acetoxy-7,8-dimethoxy-5-methyl-
chroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2,4-diiminothiazolidine

108. 5-[4-(6-acetoxy-2-ethyl-7,8-dimethoxy-5-methyl-
chroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2,4-diiminothiazolidine

10 109. 5-{4-[2-(6-methoxycarbonyloxy-2,5,7,8-tetra-
methylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl}-2,4-diiminothiazol-
idine

110. 5-{4-[2-(7-t-butyl-6-cyclopentanecarbonyloxy-2-
methylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl}-2,4-diiminothiazol-
15 idine

111. 5-{4-[2-(6-formyloxy-2-methylchroman-2-yl)-
ethoxy]benzyl}-2,4-diiminothiazolidine

112. 5-{4-[3-(6-methacryloyloxy-7,8-dimethoxy-
2,5-dimethylchroman-2-yl)propoxy]benzyl}-2,4-

diiminothiazolidine

113. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
- 5 114. 5-[4-(4,6-dihydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
115. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7-trimethyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
116. 5-[4-(7-t-butyl-6-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
- 10 117. 5-[4-(7-t-butyl-4,6-dihydroxy-2-methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
118. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
- 15 119. 5-[4-(2-ethyl-6-hydroxy-5,7,8-trimethyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
120. 5-[4-(2-ethyl-4,6-dihydroxy-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
121. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-5,7,8-trimethyl-4-oxochroman-2-

ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

122. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,7,8-trimethyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

123. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-7-isopropyl-2-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

124. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-5,7-diisopropyl-2-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

125. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-oxo-7-propylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

10 126. 5-[4-[2-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-4-oxochroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

127. 5-[4-[2-(4,6-dihydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

128. 5-[4-[2-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7-trimethyl-4-oxochroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

129. 5-[4-[2-(7-t-butyl-6-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

130. 5-[4-[2-(7-t-butyl-4,6-dihydroxy-2-methyl-

chroman-2-yl) thoxy]benzyl}thiazolidine-2,4-dion

131. 5-{4-[2-(6-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-yl)-
ethoxy]benzyl}thiazolidine-2,4-dione

132. 5-{4-[2-(2-ethyl-6-hydroxy-5,7,8-trimethyl-4-
5 oxochroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl}thiazolidine-2,4-dione

133. 5-{4-[2-(6-hydroxy-5,7,8-trimethyl-4-oxochroman-
2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl}thiazolidine-2,4-dione

134. 5-{4-[2-(6-hydroxy-5,7-diisopropyl-2,8-dimethyl-
4-oxochroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl}thiazolidine-2,4-dione

10 135. 5-{4-[2-(6-hydroxy-4-oxo-7-pentyl-2-propyl-
chroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl}thiazolidine-2,4-dione

136. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxy-2,5-dimethyl-4-oxo-
chroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

137. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxy-5-methyl-4-oxo-
15 chroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

138. 5-[4-(2-ethyl-6-hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxy-5-methyl-
4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

139. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5-dimethyl-7,8-methylenedioxy-

4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

140. 5-{4-[2-(6-hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxy-2,5-dimethyl-
4-oxochroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl}thiazolidine-2,4-dione

141. 5-{4-[3-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-4-oxo-
5 chroman-2-yl)propoxy]benzyl}thiazolidine-2,4-dione

142. 5-{4-[3-(7-t-butyl-6-hydroxy-4-oxochroman-2-
yl)propoxy]benzyl}thiazolidine-2,4-dione

143. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-
thiazolidine-2,4-dione

10 144. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,7-dimethyl-4-oxochroman-2-yl-
methoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

145. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-5,7,8-trimethyl-4-oxo-2-
propylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

146. 5-[4-(7-t-butyl-6-hydroxy-2-isopropyl-4-oxo-
15 chroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

147. 5-[4-(2-butyl-6-hydroxy-5,7,8-trimethyl-4-oxo-
chroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

148. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2-isobutyl-5,7,8-trimethyl-4-

oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

149. 5-[4-(4,6-dihydroxy-2-isobutyl-5,7,8-trimethyl-
chroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

150. 5-[4-(2-t-butyl-6-hydroxy-5,7,8-trimethyl-4-
5 oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

151. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2-isobutyl-7-isopropyl-4-
oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

152. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-5,7-dimethyl-4-oxo-2-pentyl-
chroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

10 153. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-5,7,8-trimethyl-2-pentyl-4-
oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

154. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2-isopentyl-5,7,8-trimethyl-4-
oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

155. 5-[4-[6-hydroxy-5,7,8-trimethyl-2-(2-methyl-
15 butyl)-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-
dione

156. 5-[4-[2-(2,2-dimethylpropyl)-6-hydroxy-5,7,8-
trimethyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-
2,4-dione

157. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
158. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-5,7-diisopropyl-2-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
- 5 159. 5-[4-(7-t-butyl-6-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
160. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
161. 5-[4-(2-ethyl-6-hydroxy-5,7,8-trimethyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
- 10 162. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2-isobutyl-5,7,8-trimethyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
163. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxy-2,5-dimethyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
- 15 164. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-5,7,8-trimethyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
165. 5-[4-(2-ethyl-6-hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxy-5-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one

166. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,7-dimethyl-4-oxochroman-2-yl-methoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
167. 5-{4-[2-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-4-oxochroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl}-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
- 5 168. 5-{4-[2-(6-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-yl)-ethoxy]benzyl}-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
169. 5-{4-[2-(7-t-butyl-6-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl}-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
170. 5-{4-[2-(6-hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxy-2,5-dimethyl-10 4-oxochroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl}-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
- one
171. 5-{4-[2-(2-ethyl-6-hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxy-5-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl}-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
- 15 172. 5-{4-[2-(6-hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxy-5-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl}-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
173. 5-{4-[3-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-4-oxochroman-2-yl)propoxy]benzyl}-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
174. 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-4-oxochroman-

2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2,4-diiminothiazolidine

175. 5-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-4-oxo-
chroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

176. 5-[4-(6-acetoxy-4-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-
5 chroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

177. 5-[4-(4,6-diacetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-
ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

178. 5-[4-(6-acetoxy-4-benzoyloxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-
chroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

10 179. 5-[4-(4-acetoxy-6-benzoyloxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-
chroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

180. 5-[4-(4,6-dibenzoyloxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-
chroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

181. 5-[4-(2-ethyl-4,6-diisobutyryloxy-5,7,8-trimethyl-
15 chroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

182. 5-[4-(4,6-dibutyryloxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-
chroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

183. 5-[4-[2-(6-m-fluorobenzoyloxy-4-heptanoyloxy-

2,5,7-trimethylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-
2,4-dione

184. 5-{4-[2-(4,6-diacryloyloxy-7-t-butyl-2-methyl-
chroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

5 185. 5-{4-[2-(4-m-fluorobenzoyloxy-6-heptanoyloxy-2-
methylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

186. 5-{4-[2-(5,7,8-trimethyl-4,6-bis(3-
thenoyloxy)chroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-
2,4-dione

10 187. 5-{4-[2-(4,6-bis(2-furoyloxy)-5,7-di-
isopropyl-2,8-dimethylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl}-
thiazolidine-2,4-dione

188. 5-[4-(2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-4,6-dinicotinoyloxy-
chroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

15 189. 5-{4-[4,6-bis(3,5-dichlorobenzoyloxy)-7,8-
dimethoxy-5-methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy]benzyl}-
thiazolidine-2,4-dione

190. 5-[4-(2-ethyl-7,8-dimethoxy-5-methyl-4,6-
divaleryloxychroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-
20 dione

191. 5-{4-[7-t-butyl-6-(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxy-benzoyloxy)-2-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy]benzyl}-thiazolidine-2,4-dione
192. 5-[4-(2-ethyl-5,7,8-trimethyl-4-oxo-6-phenyl-acetoxychroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
193. 5-[4-(6-cinnamoyloxy-7,8-dimethoxy-2,5-dimethyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
194. 5-[4-(6-m-chlorobenzoyloxy-7,8-dimethoxy-5-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
195. 5-[4-(2-ethyl-7,8-dimethoxy-5-methyl-4-oxo-6-valeryloxychroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
196. 5-{4-[2-(6-o-methoxybenzoyloxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-4-oxochroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl}-2-imino-thiazolidin-4-one
197. 5-{4-[2-(2-methyl-4-oxo-6-pivaloyloxychroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl}thiazolidine-2,4-dione
198. 5-{4-[2-(7-t-butyl-2-methyl-4-oxo-6-propionyl-oxychroman-2-yl)thoxy]benzyl}thiazolidine-2,4-dione

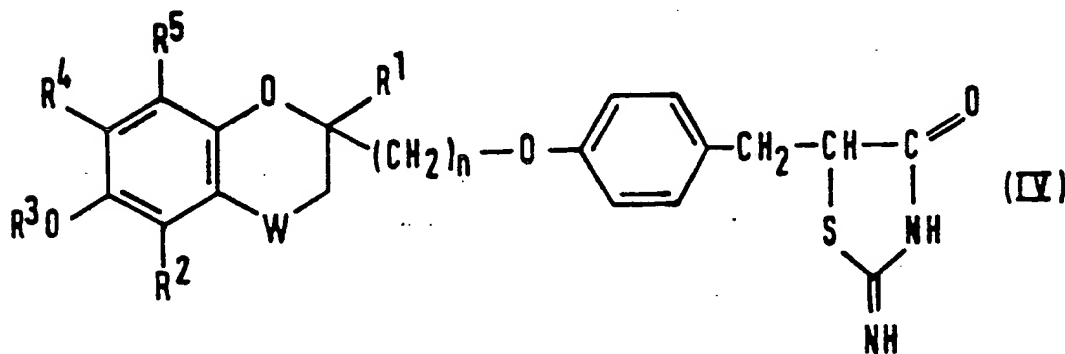
199. 5-[4-[2-(6-ethoxycarbonyloxy-7,8-dimethoxy-2,5-dimethyl-4-oxochroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
200. 5-[4-[2-(6-p-chlorophenylacetoxy-2-ethyl-7,8-dimethoxy-5-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
201. 5-[4-[2-[7,8-dimethoxy-5-methyl-4-oxo-6-(3-phenylpropionyloxy)chroman-2-yl]ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
- 10 202. 5-[4-(6-cyclohexanecarbonyloxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2,4-diiminothiazolidine
203. 5-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
- 15 204. 5-[4-(6-acetoxy-7-t-butyl-2-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
205. 5-[4-(6-acetoxy-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
206. 5-[4-[2-(6-acetoxy-7-t-butyl-2-methylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
- 20

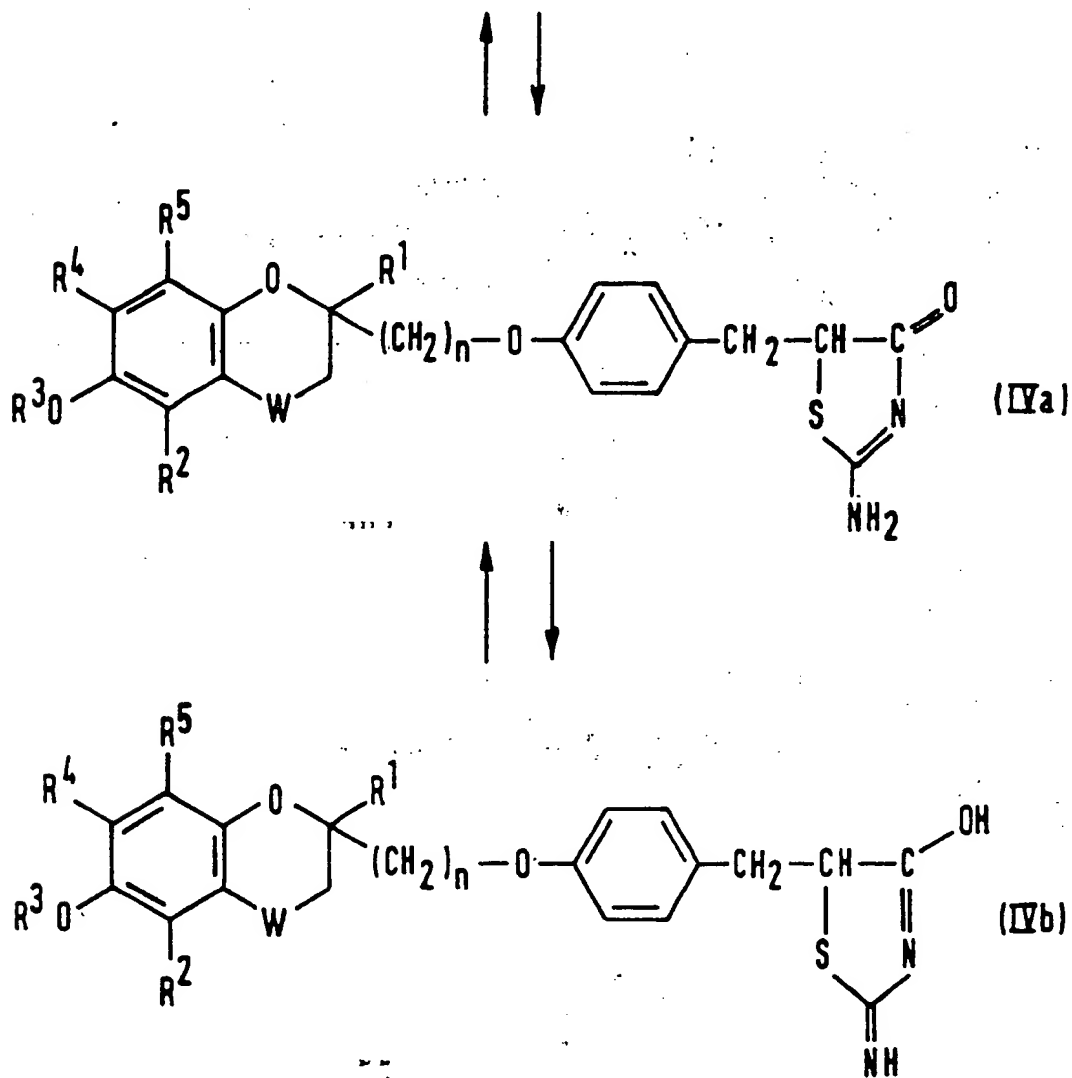
207. 5-[4-[2-(6-acetoxy-7,8-dimethoxy-2,5-dimethyl-chroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one

208. 5-[4-[2-(2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-6-nicotinoyloxy-chroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

5 Of the compounds listed above, preferred compounds are Compounds No. 1, 5, 6, 11, 13, 23, 27, 30, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 62, 63, 67, 75, 113, 116, 148, 157, 159, 162, 175, 205, 206, and 207. More preferred compounds are Compounds No. 1, 5, 13, 30, 62, 67, 113 and 116 and
10 the most preferred compounds are Compounds No. 1 and 62.

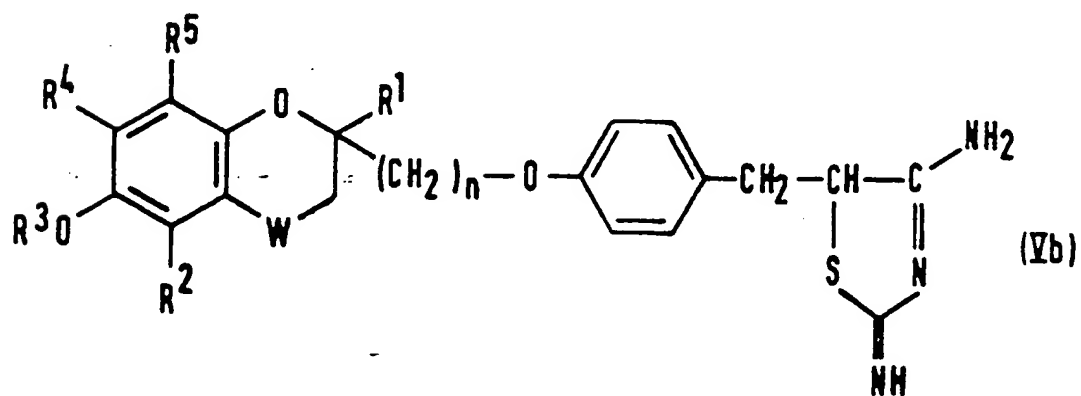
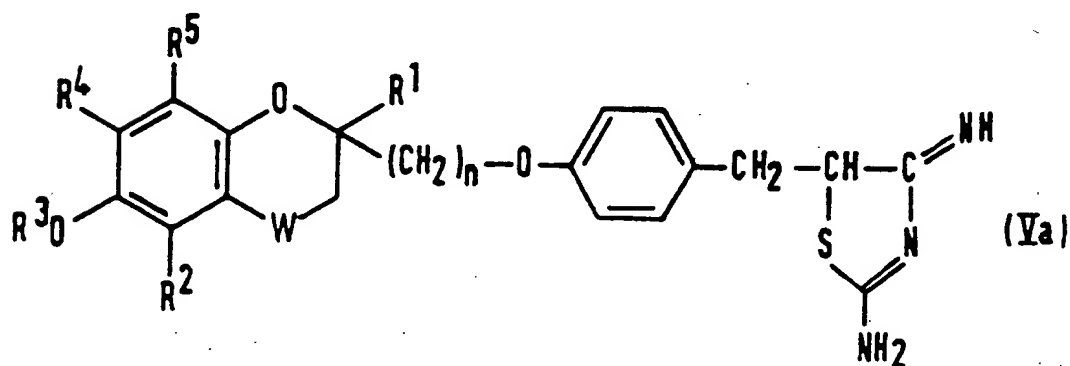
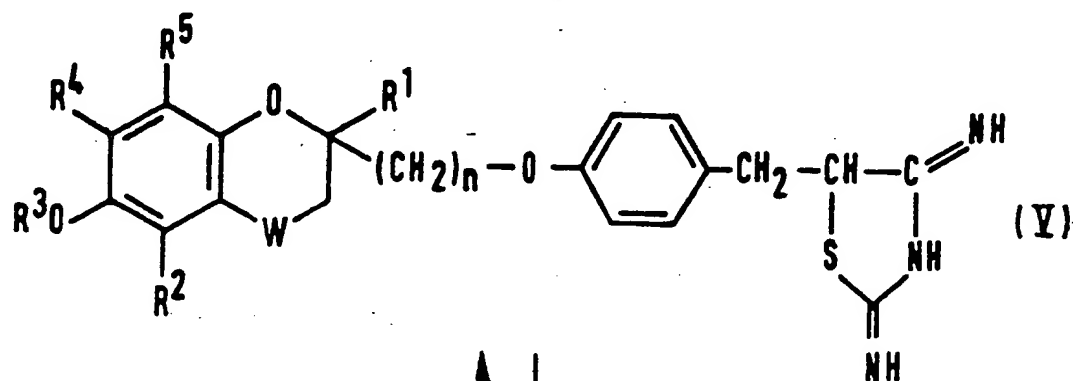
Various of the compounds of the invention can exist in the form of tautomers. For example, those compounds of the invention in which Z represents an imino group and Y represents an oxygen atom can exist in the form of
15 the tautomers (IV), (IVa) and (IVb):



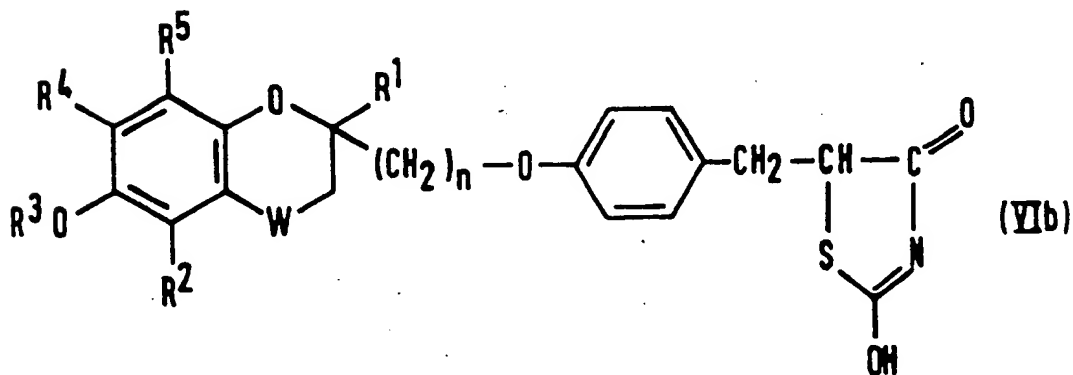
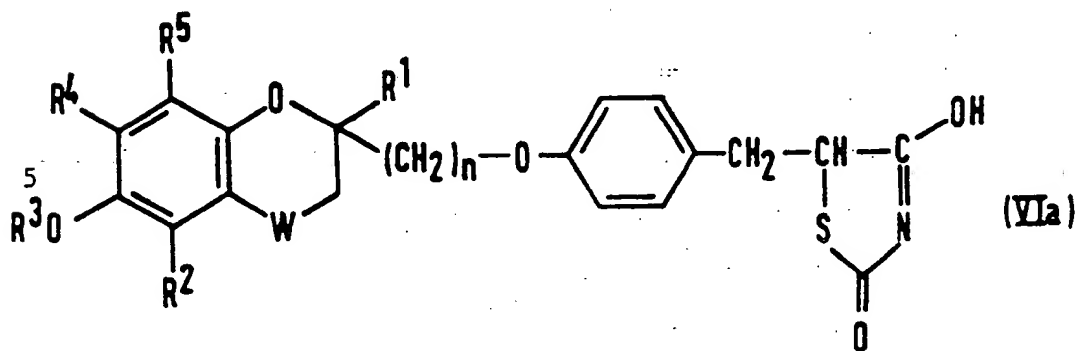
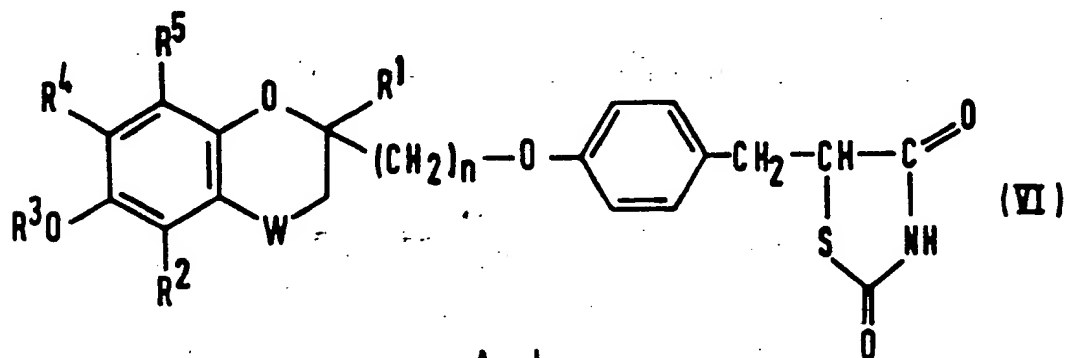


Compounds in which both Y and Z represent imino groups can exist in the form of the tautomers (V), (Va)

and (Vb):



Compounds in which Y and Z both represent oxygen atoms can exist in the form of the tautomers (VI), (VIa) and (VIb):



For convenience, all of the tautomers are represented by a single formula, but the tautomeric nature of these compounds should be remembered, as it can have an effect upon various of the properties of the compounds, including their salt-forming ability, as discussed hereafter.

In addition, the compounds of the invention can exist in the form of various stereoisomers. For example, where W represents a $>C=O$ or $-CH_2-$ group, the carbon atoms at the 2- position of the chroman ring and the 5- position of the thiazolidine ring are both asymmetric. Furthermore, where W represents a $>CH-OR^6$ group, the carbon atoms at the 2- and 4- positions of the chroman ring and at the 5- position of the thiazolidine ring are asymmetric. All of these thus give rise to the possibility of stereoisomers. All of the isomers are represented herein by a single formula, and the present invention envisages both mixtures of the isomers and the individual isomers, which may be separated from each other by conventional means.

The compounds of the present invention also include salts of compounds of the invention described above, which may be salts with cations. Cations with which the compounds of the invention may form salts include: alkali metals, such as sodium or potassium; alkaline

earth metals, such as calcium; and trivalent metals, such as aluminium.

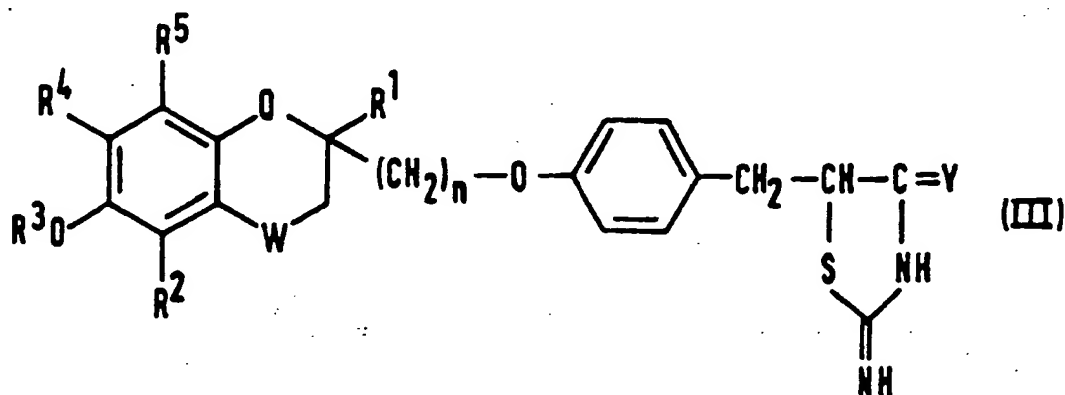
It will, however, be appreciated that the particular nature of the salt employed is not critical to the present invention and any cations known in the art for forming salts of this type may equally be used in the present invention. The only constraint is that the cations should not, or should not to an unacceptable extent, increase the toxicity or reduce the activity of the resulting compound.

Because the compounds of the invention contain a number of salt-forming centres, mono- and di- salts may be formed. For example, because of the tautomerism described above in relation to the compounds of formula (VI), there are two potential salt-forming reactive sites at the oxygen atom in the group $-OR^3$ and the nitrogen atom at the 3- position of the thiazolidine ring.

PREPARATION OF NEW COMPOUNDS

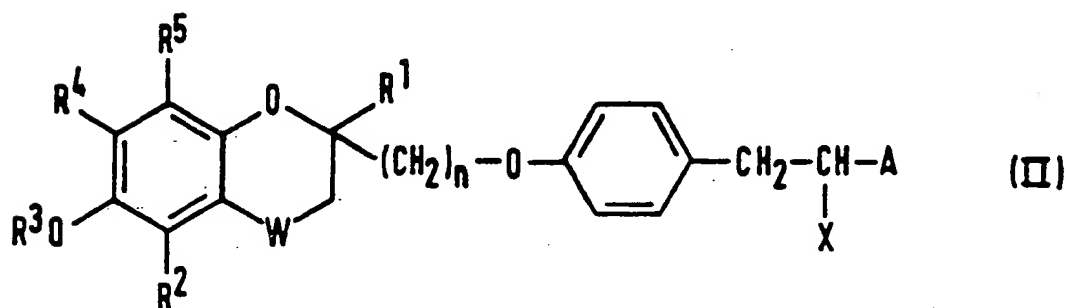
20 Step (a)

Compounds of the invention in which Z represents an imino group, that is to say compounds of formula (III):



(in which R^1 - R^5 , n , W and Y are as defined above)

may be prepared by reacting a compound of formula (II):



- 5 [in which R^1 - R^5 and n are as defined above, A represents a cyano group, a carboxy group, an alkoxy carbonyl group, a carbamoyl group or a group of formula $-COO(M)_m$, in which M represents a cation and m is the reciprocal of its valency, and X represents a

halogen atom] with thiourea.

Where A represents a cyano group, the product is a compound in which Y represents an imino group; where A represents a carboxy, alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl or
5 -COO(M)_m group, the product is a compound where Y represents an oxygen atom.

In the above formula (II), where A represents an alkoxycarbonyl group, this is preferably a (C₁-C₆
alkoxy)carbonyl group, for example a methoxycarbonyl,
10 ethoxycarbonyl, propoxycarbonyl, isopropoxycarbonyl or butoxycarbonyl group. M preferably represents a metal atom, such as a sodium, potassium, calcium or aluminium atom, or an ammonium group. X preferably represents a chlorine, bromine or iodine atom.

15 This reaction is preferably applied only to those compounds where W represents a -CH₂- or >C=O group, compounds in which W represents a >CH-OR⁶ group being prepared from the corresponding compound where W represents a >C=O group, as explained hereafter.

20 Reaction of the compound of formula (II) with thiourea is preferably effected in the presence of a solvent, the nature of which is not critical, provided that it has no adverse effect on the reaction. Suitable

solvents include: alcohols, such as methanol, ethanol, propanol, butanol or ethylene glycol monomethyl ether; ethers, such as tetrahydrofuran or dioxane; ketones, such as acetone; dimethyl sulphoxide; sulpholane; or
5 amides, such as dimethylformamide.

There is no particular limitation on the molar ratio of the compound of formula (II) to thiourea; however, we would normally prefer to use equimolar amounts or a molar excess of thiourea, preferably a slight molar
10 excess. In general, from 1 to 2 moles of thiourea per mole of the compound of formula (II) are preferred.

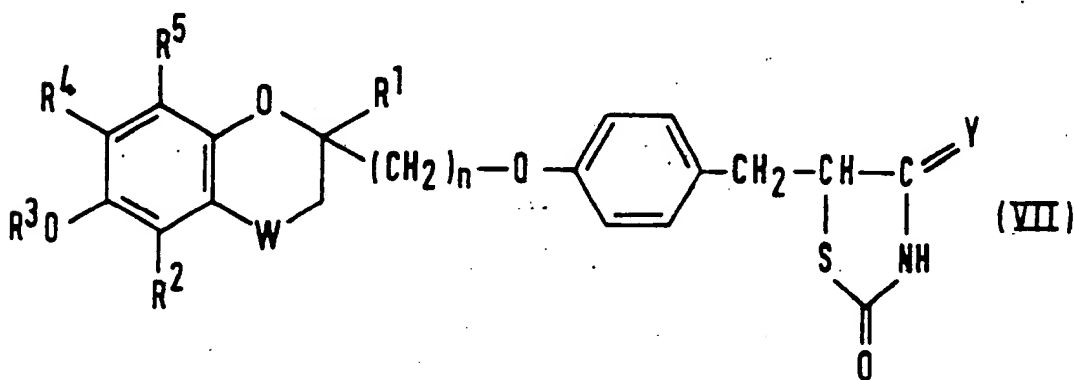
The various reaction conditions, such as the reaction temperature and time, will vary, depending upon the natures of the starting materials and the solvent;
15 however, the reaction is normally effected at the reflux temperature of the solvent or at a temperature of from 80 to 150°C for a period of from 1 to 20 hours.

The resulting compound of formula (III) may be the desired final product of the present invention, in which
20 case it may be isolated from the reaction mixture by conventional means, as discussed hereafter. Alternatively, with or without isolation and/or purification, the compound of formula (III) may be subjected to one or both of steps (b) and (c), in any

order, and, if desired, step (c) may be followed by step (d). The product of any of these steps may be subjected to the salification reaction discussed in step (e).

Step (b)

5 In this step, the compound of formula (III), that is to say a compound of formula (I) in which Z represents an imino group, may be hydrolysed to give the corresponding compound of formula (I) in which Z represents an oxygen atom, that is to say a compound of
10 formula (VII):



(in which R^1 - R^5 , n , W and Y are as defined above).

The hydrolysis reaction is preferably carried out by heating the compound of formula (III) in a suitable
15 solvent with water and an organic acid (such as acetic

acid) or a mineral acid (such as sulphuric acid, or hydrochloric acid). The nature of the solvent is not critical to the invention, provided that it has no adverse effect upon the reaction; suitable solvents include: sulpholane; and alcohols, such as methanol, ethanol or ethylene glycol monomethyl ether.

The amount of acid used is preferably from 0.1 to 10 moles, more preferably from 0.2 to 3 moles, per mole of the compound of formula (III). The water or aqueous solvent is preferably employed in a large molar excess over the compound of formula (III).

Although not critical, the temperature employed for the reaction is preferably from 50 to 100°C and the time required for the reaction is normally from 2 to 20 hours.

Where Y in the compound of formula (III) represents an imino group, the hydrolysis of the present step will normally likewise convert said imino group to an oxygen atom, the product being a compound in which both Y and Z are oxygen atoms. However, by careful control of the hydrolysis conditions, it is possible to prevent the hydrolysis reaction going to completion, in which case part of the product will be a compound in which Y represents an imino group and Z represents an oxygen atom.

In addition to converting the imino group represented by Z to an oxygen atom, where R^3 in the compound of formula (III) represents an acyl group, the hydrolysis reaction may convert this to a hydrogen atom, although it is possible to maintain the acyl group represented by R^3 intact, provided that appropriate reaction conditions are chosen, as is well-known in the art.

Where the compound of formula (VII) is a compound in which R^3 represents a hydrogen atom, this may be acylated to give a corresponding compound in which R^3 represents one of the acyl groups defined above. This acylation reaction may be carried out at any suitable stage in the reaction sequence and may, if desired, be carried out simultaneously with the acylation reaction of step (d), as described hereafter. Where, however, the acylation reaction is carried out separately from step (d), the conditions are preferably as follows:

The acylating agent is preferably an acid halide or an acid anhydride, or it may be an organic acid, such as an aromatic carboxylic acid or an aliphatic carboxylic acid, in association with a dehydrating agent or dehydrating catalyst such as a mineral acid (e.g. hydrochloric acid or sulphuric acid) or an organic acid (e.g. p-toluenesulphonic acid).

The reaction is normally carried out in the presence of a solvent, the nature of which is not critical, provided that it has no adverse effect upon the reaction. Suitable solvents include: ethers, such as
5 diethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran or dioxane; aromatic hydrocarbons, such as benzene or toluene; aliphatic hydrocarbons, such as hexane, cyclohexane or heptane; halogenated hydrocarbons, such as methylene chloride or chloroform; ketones, such as acetone or methyl ethyl
10 ketone; amides, such as dimethylformamide or dimethylacetamide; organic bases, such as pyridine or triethylamine; sulfoxides, such as dimethyl sulfoxide; sulphones, such as sulfolane; or water; a single one of these solvents or a mixture of any two or more thereof
15 may be employed.

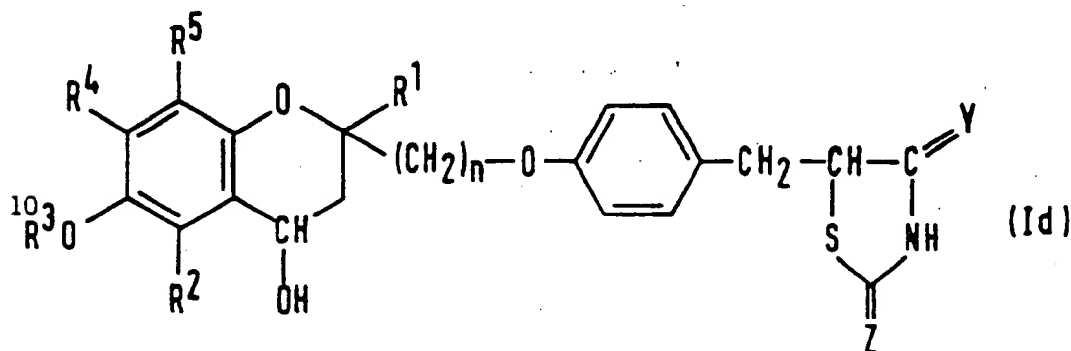
The ratio of the amount of the compound of formula (VII) in which R^3 represents a hydrogen atom to the amount of acylating agent is not particularly critical, but the use of a slight molar excess of the acylating
20 agent over the compound of formula (VII) may be desirable. In general, we prefer to employ from 1 to 2 moles of acylating agent per mole of compound of formula (VII).

The reaction conditions, such as the reaction
25 temperature and reaction time, will vary, depending upon

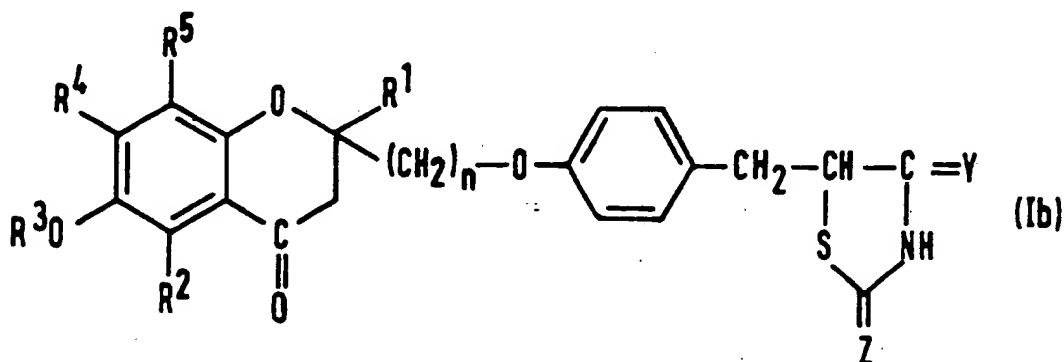
a number of factors, including the nature of the starting materials and solvent, but the reaction is generally carried out at a temperature of from 0 to 100°C for a period of from several minutes to about 20 hours.

Step (c)

Compounds of formula (I) in which W represents a group of formula $>\text{CH-OH}$, that is to say compounds of formula (Id):



(in which R^1 - R^5 , n , Y and Z are as defined above)
may be prepared by reducing the corresponding compound in which W represents a group of formula $>\text{C=O}$, that is to say a compound of formula (Ib):



(in which R^1 - R^5 , n , Y and Z are as defined above).

The reducing agent employed for this reaction is any one which is capable of reducing a ring carbonyl group to a $>CH-OH$ group without affecting, or affecting to a substantial degree, the remainder of the molecule. Suitable reducing agents include borohydrides, such as sodium borohydride, or K-Selectride, especially sodium borohydride.

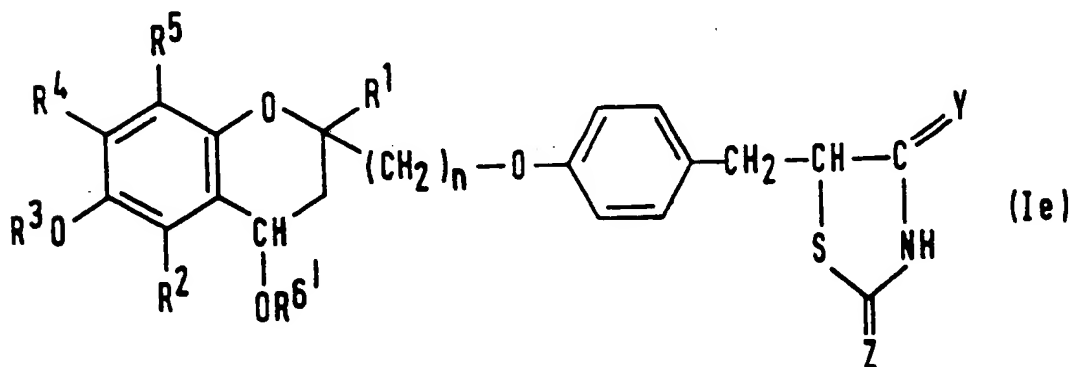
The reaction is preferably effected in the presence of a solvent, the nature of which is not critical, provided that it has no adverse effect upon the reaction. Suitable solvents include, for example: alcohols, such as methanol, ethanol, propanol, butanol or ethylene glycol monomethyl ether; and ethers, such as tetrahydrofuran or dioxane.

The molar ratio of the compound of formula (Ib) to the reducing agent is not critical, however we prefer to employ a molar excess of reducing agent, preferably from 1 to 20 moles of reducing agent (especially sodium borohydride) per mole of compound of formula (Ib).

The reaction conditions, particularly the reaction temperature and time, will vary depending upon a number of factors, especially the natures of the starting material, solvent and reducing agent. However, the reaction is normally carried out at a temperature of from 0 to 100°C for a period of from 1 to about 20 hours.

Step (d)

Optionally, compounds of formula (I) in which W represents a group of formula $>\text{CH}-\text{OR}^{6'}$ (in which $\text{R}^{6'}$ represents any one of the groups defined for R^6 but not the hydrogen atom), that is to say compounds of formula (Ie):



(in which R^1-R^5 , $R^{6'}$, n , Y and Z are as defined above) may be prepared by acylating the corresponding compound of formula (Id), prepared as described in step (c).

- 5 The acylating agent is preferably an acid halide or acid anhydride, the parent acid of which will depend upon the acyl group $R^{6'}$ which it is desired should be introduced into the compound.

10 The acylation reaction is preferably effected in the presence of a solvent, the nature of which is not critical, provided that it has no adverse effect upon the reaction. Examples of suitable solvents include: ethers, such as diethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran or dioxane; aromatic hydrocarbons, such as benzene, toluene
15 or xylene; aliphatic hydrocarbons, such as hexane, cyclohexane or heptane; halogenated hydrocarbons, such as methylene chloride or chloroform; organic bases, such as pyridine or triethylamine; amides, such as dimethylformamide or dimethylacetamide; sulfoxides,
20 such as dimethyl sulfoxide; and sulphones, such as sulpholane.

Th ratio of th amount of compound of formula (Id) to the acylating agent is not particularly critical and we therefore pr f r to employ a slight molar excess of

acylating agent over compound (Id). In general, from 1 to 2 moles of acylating agent are employed per mole of compound of formula (Id).

The reaction conditions, particularly reaction temperature and time, will vary depending upon a number of factors, especially the natures of the starting material, acylating agent and solvent, but we normally prefer to carry out the reaction at a temperature of from 0 to 100°C for a period of from several minutes to about 20 hours.

Step (e)

The compounds of the invention, prepared as described in any of the above steps may be converted to their salts by conventional means, for example by reaction with a basic compound of an alkali metal (such as sodium or potassium), an alkaline earth metal (such as calcium) or a trivalent metal (such as aluminium). Preferred such compounds are sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, sodium ethoxide and potassium t-butoxide.

It will be appreciated that the compounds produced in all of the above steps can exist in various tautomeric forms, as illustrated in relation to compounds (IV), (V) and (VI).

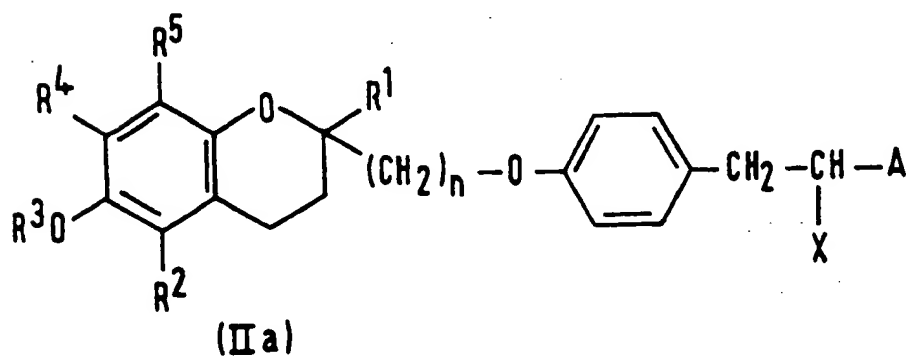
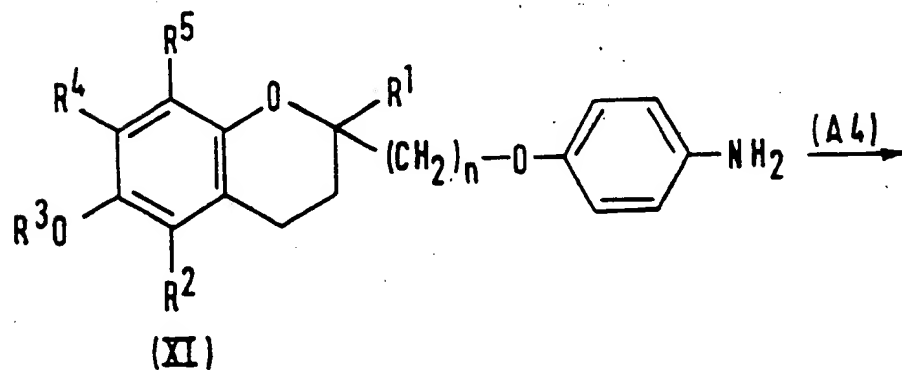
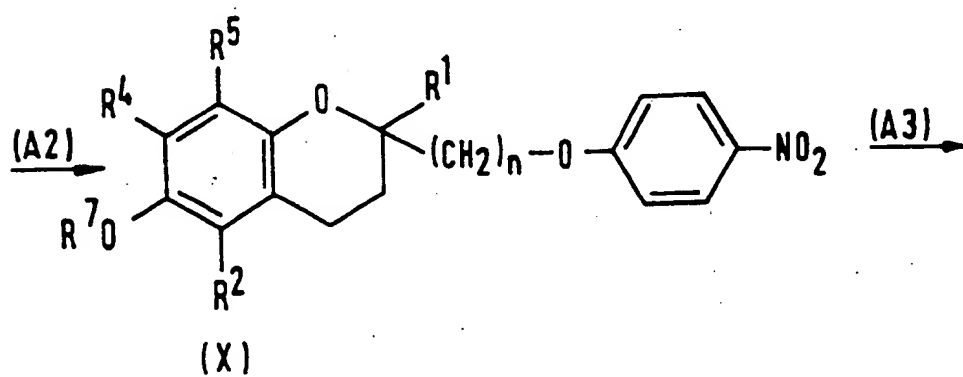
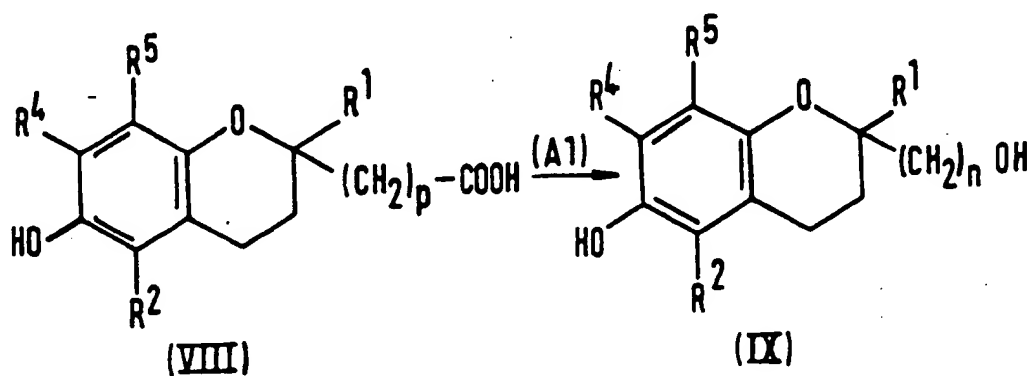
The compounds prepared as described in any of the above steps may be separated after that step and, if desired, purified by conventional means. Suitable isolation and purification steps include concentration
5 of the reaction mixture by evaporating off the solvent under reduced pressure, extraction with a suitable solvent, recrystallization, transfer into another solvent, chromatography and optical resolution. However, where two or more of the above steps are to be
10 carried out, they may, if desired, be carried out without intermediate isolation or purification.

PREPARATION OF STARTING MATERIALS

The α -halocarboxylic acid derivatives of formula (II), which are the principal starting materials for
15 preparing the compounds of the invention, are novel compounds and may be prepared by Methods A and B described below.

Method A

Compounds of formula (II) in which W represents a
20 $-\text{CH}_2-$ group may be prepared by the sequence of reactions illustrated in the following reaction scheme:



In the above formulae, R^1-R^5 , \underline{n} , A and X are as defined above, $p = (\underline{n}-1)$; and R^7 represents a hydroxy-protecting group.

Step (A1)

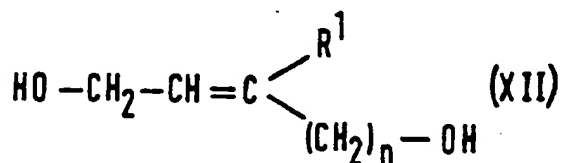
5 The chroman carboxylic acid homologues (VIII), which are the starting materials for this Method, may be prepared as described, for example, in the Journal of the American Oil Chemical Society, 51, 200 (1974).

 These acids (VIII) are reduced with a reducing
10 agent, such as lithium aluminium hydride or Vitride [sodium bis(2-methoxyethoxy)aluminium hydride], to give the corresponding chroman alcohol homologue (IX). This reaction is preferably effected in the presence of a solvent, the nature of which is not critical, provided
15 that it does not interfere with the reaction. Suitable solvents include: ethers, such as diethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran or ethylene glycol dimethyl ether; aromatic hydrocarbons, such as benzene, toluene or xylene; and aliphatic hydrocarbons, such as hexane,
20 heptane, cyclohexane, petroleum ether, ligroin or ethylcyclohexane.

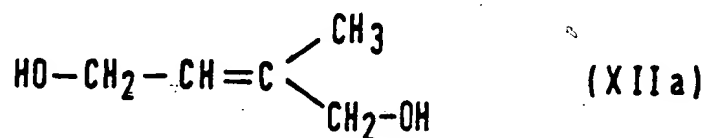
 The ratio of the amount of acid (VIII) to reducing agent is not particularly critical, but we generally

prefer to use a slight molar excess of reducing agent. Preferably the amount of reducing agent is from 1 to 2 moles per mole of acid (VIII). The reaction conditions, particularly the reaction temperature and time, will
 5 vary depending upon a number of factors, such as the nature of the starting material, the reducing agent and the solvent, but the reaction is generally carried out at a temperature of from 10 to 100°C for a period of from 10 minutes to 20 hours.

10 Alternatively, the chroman alcohol homologue (IX) may be prepared by reacting a hydroquinone with a compound of formula (XII):



(in which n and R^1 are as defined above), e.g. a
 15 compound of formula (XIIa):



in the presence of aluminium chloride, as described in West German Patent No. 3,010,504.

Step (A2)

5 The chroman alcohol homologues of formula (IX) obtained in step (A1) may be converted to the corresponding nitrophenoxyalkyl chroman compounds (X). However, before carrying out this reaction, we prefer that the phenolic hydroxy group should be protected by a
10 hydroxy-protecting group R^7 .

The nature of the hydroxy-protecting group is not critical and any such group commonly used in this type of reaction and compound may be employed. Suitable groups include: alkoxyalkyl groups, such as the
15 methoxymethyl group; aralkyl groups, such as the benzyl group; the 2-tetrahydropyranyl group; and acyl groups.

such as the acetyl or benzoyl groups. The alkoxyalkyl groups are preferred. The reaction is normally effected by contacting a compound R^7X (in which R^7 is as defined above and X represents a halogen atom, preferably a chlorine atom), such as chloromethyl methyl ether or benzyl chloride, with the compound of formula (IX) in the presence of a base such as an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal hydride (e.g. sodium hydride or calcium hydride) or an alkali metal alkoxide (e.g. sodium methoxide, sodium ethoxide or potassium t-butoxide). The reaction is normally carried out in the presence of a solvent, for example: an ether, such as diethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran or dioxane; an aromatic hydrocarbon, such as benzene, toluene or xylene; an aliphatic hydrocarbon, such as hexane or heptane; an amide, such as dimethylformamide or dimethylacetamide; a sulphoxide, such as dimethyl sulphoxide; or a sulphone, such as sulpholane. There is no particular limitation on the molar ratio of compound (IX) to the compound R^7X , but we generally prefer to use a slight molar excess of the compound (IX), in order to reduce the risk of protecting the hydroxy group in the side chain at the 2- position. In general, we prefer to employ from 0.8 to 1 mole of the compound R^7X per mole of the compound (IX). The reaction conditions, particularly the reaction temperature and time, may vary depending upon a number of factors.

especially the nature of the starting material, the compound R^7X and the solvent, but we normally prefer a reaction temperature of from 0 to 50°C and a time of from several minutes to several tens of minutes.

5 The protected chroman alcohol produced by this reaction can, if desired, be isolated and purified, but it may be, and preferably is, converted to the nitrophenoxyalkylchroman compound of formula (X) without intermediate isolation.

10 Conversion to the compound of formula (X) is effected by reacting the protected compound (IX) with a 4-halonitrobenzene in the presence of a base, such as sodium hydride, in a solvent, such as dimethyl sulphoxide or dimethylformamide. The amount of
15 4-halonitrobenzene employed is preferably about 2 moles per mole of protected compound (IX). The reaction temperature is preferably from 30 to 100°C and the time
20 ~~required for the reaction is usually from several~~ minutes to several hours.

20 Step (A3)

The nitro compound of formula (X) thus obtained is reduced in this step to the corresponding amino compound of formula (XI). In the course of or before or after

this reduction, the protecting group R^7 may be allowed to remain as it is, removed or converted to another group (particularly an acyl group, such as an acetyl or benzoyl group).

5 When deprotection of the compound (X) is desired, this can easily be achieved by reacting the compound (X) with a dilute aqueous acid (such as hydrochloric acid, sulphuric acid or nitric acid) to hydrolyse the protecting group. The reaction is normally carried out
10 in the presence of a solvent, for example: an alcohol, such as methanol, ethanol or propanol; an ether, such as tetrahydrofuran or dioxane; a ketone, such as acetone or methyl ethyl ketone; an organic acid, such as acetic acid or propionic acid; dimethyl sulphoxide;
15 dimethylformamide; or water. Of these, water or an organic acid is preferred. The amount of acid used for hydrolysis is preferably from 0.01 to 5 moles, more preferably from 0.01 to 1 mole, per mole of the compound (X). We prefer to carry out the reaction in the
20 presence of a large molar excess of water or of acetic acid as the solvent. The reaction temperature is preferably from ambient temperature to 100°C and the time required for the reaction is normally from several minutes to about 20 hours.

25 If it is desired to convert the protecting group

R^7 to another group, particularly an acyl group, this may be achieved by acylation of the deprotected compound obtained as described above. The acylating agent may be an acid halide, such as acetyl chloride or benzoyl chloride, or an acid anhydride, such as acetic anhydride. This reaction is preferably carried out in the presence of an organic amine (such as pyridine or triethylamine) or in the presence of an inorganic base (for example an alkali metal hydroxide, such as sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide, or an alkali metal carbonate or bicarbonate, such as sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate or sodium bicarbonate). The acylating reaction is preferably carried out in the presence of a solvent, for example: an aliphatic hydrocarbon, such as hexane, cyclohexane, heptane, ligroin or ethylcyclohexane; an aromatic hydrocarbon, such as benzene, toluene or xylene; an organic amine, such as pyridine or triethylamine; a ketone, such as acetone or methyl ethyl ketone; an amide, such as dimethylformamide; a sulphoxide, such as dimethyl sulphoxide; or water. The ratio of the amount of deprotected compound (X) to acylating agent is not particularly critical, however, a slight molar excess of acylating agent is usually preferred, for example from 1 to 1.5 moles of acylating agent per mole of deprotected compound (X). Where an organic amine is employed as the acid-binding agent, it may be employed in any amount

from 1 mole to a large molar excess per mole of the compound of formula (X). Where an inorganic base is employed as the acid-binding agent, it is preferably employed in an amount of from 1 to 10 moles per mole of the compound of formula (X). The reaction conditions, particularly the reaction temperature and time, may vary depending upon a number of factors, particularly the natures of the starting material and solvent employed, but the reaction is preferably effected at a temperature of from 0 to 100°C for a period of from several minutes to 20 hours.

The nitro compound of formula (X) (which may optionally have been subjected to any of the processes described above) is then reduced to the amino compound of formula (XI). The reduction may be a catalytic reduction process employing hydrogen or reduction with a metal (such as zinc or iron) and an acid (which may be a mineral acid such as hydrochloric acid or sulphuric acid or an organic acid such as acetic acid). Preferably a catalytic reduction process is employed. The catalyst employed for this catalytic reduction is preferably palladium-on-carbon, Raney nickel or platinum oxide, of which palladium-on-carbon is particularly preferred. The hydrogen pressure is preferably from 1 to 100 atmospheres (1.01 to 101 bars), more preferably from 1 to 6 atmospheres (1.01 to 6.06 bars). The reaction is

preferably effected in the presence of a solvent, the nature of which is not critical, provided that it has no adverse effect upon the reaction. Suitable solvents include: alcohols, such as methanol or ethanol; aromatic
5 hydrocarbons, such as benzene or toluene; ethers, such as tetrahydrofuran; organic acids, such as acetic acid; water; or mixtures of any two or more thereof. The reaction conditions, particularly the reaction temperature and time, may vary depending upon a number
10 of factors, particularly the nature of the starting material, the method employed for reduction and the solvent, but the reaction is normally effected at a temperature from ambient to 50°C and the period required for the reaction is generally from several minutes to
15 about 20 hours.

Step (A4)

The 2-(4-aminophenoxyalkyl)chroman derivative of formula (XI), prepared as described in step (A3) above, is diazotized and then subjected to a Meerwein
20 arylation, to give the desired α -halocarboxylic acid compound of formula (IIa). The two reactions are preferably effected sequentially in the same reaction system and under essentially the same conditions.

The diazotization reaction comprises reacting the

amino compound of formula (XI) with a nitrite (such as sodium nitrite) in the presence of an acid, such as hydrochloric acid or hydrobromic acid.

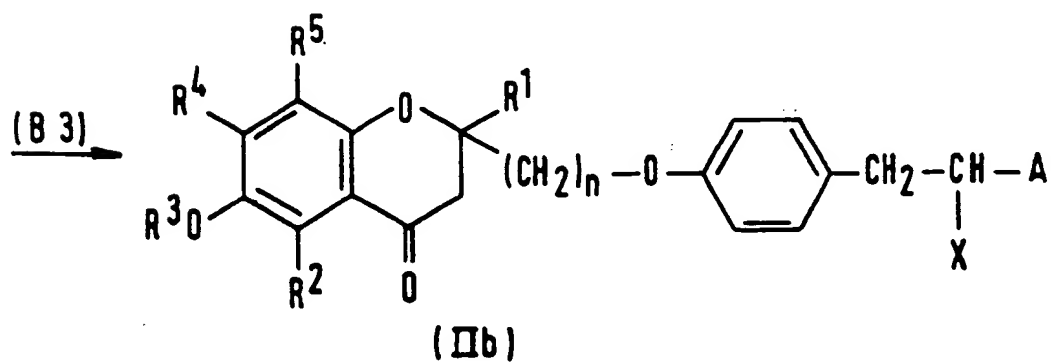
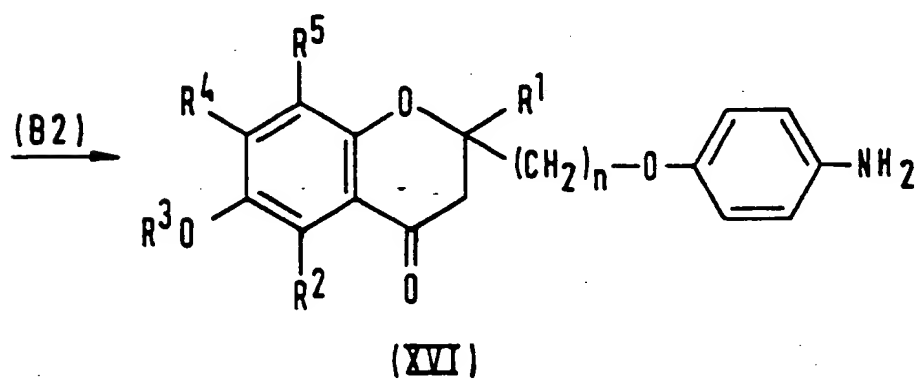
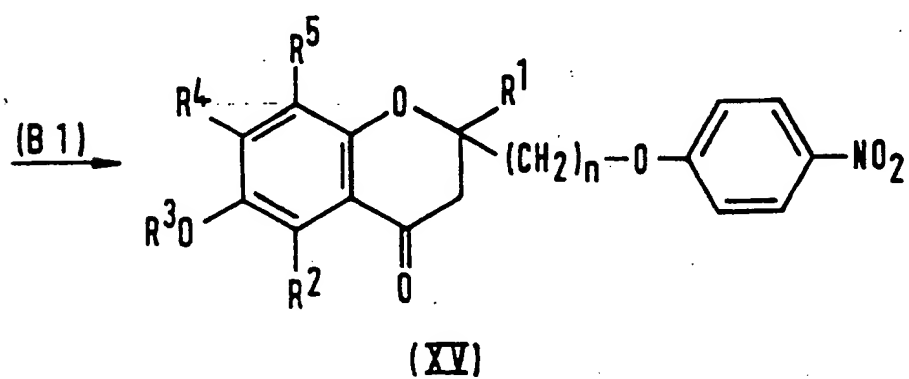
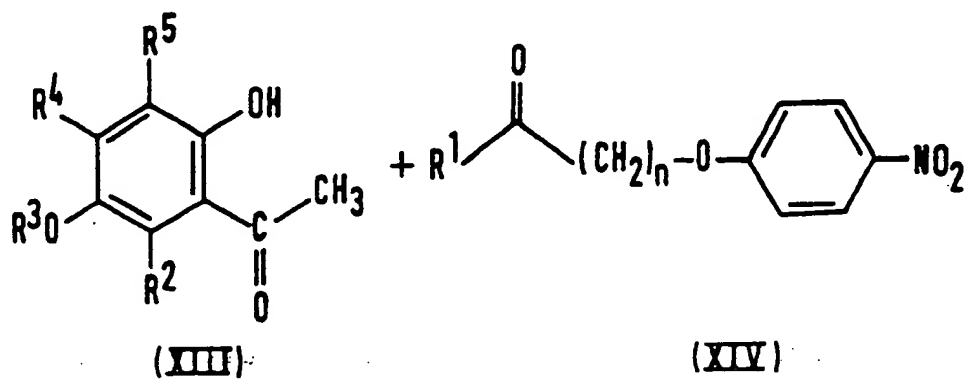
The Meerwein arylation reaction comprises reacting
5 the resulting diazonium compound with acrylic acid, an acrylic acid ester (such as methyl acrylate or ethyl acrylate) or another acrylic acid derivative (such as acrylonitrile or acrylamide) in the presence of a catalytic amount of a cuprous compound (which may be a
10 salt, such as cuprous chloride, or another cuprous compound such as cuprous oxide). The acrylic acid esters are preferred and the preferred cuprous compound is cuprous oxide.

The reactions are preferably effected in the
15 presence of a solvent, the nature of which is not critical, provided that it does not interfere with the reactions. Suitable solvents include: alcohols, such as methanol or ethanol; ketones, such as acetone or methyl ethyl ketone; water; or a mixture of any two or more
20 thereof. The molar ratio of the amino compound of formula (XI) to the acrylic acid or derivative thereof is preferably from 1:1 to 1:15, more preferably from 1:5 to 1:10. The molar ratio of the amino compound (XI) to the cuprous compound is preferably from 1:0.01 to 1:1,
25 more preferably from 1:0.03 to 1:0.3. The reaction

conditions, particularly the reaction temperature and time, may vary depending upon a number of factors, especially the natures of the starting materials and the solvent employed, but the reaction is normally carried
5 out at a temperature from ambient temperature to 100°C, preferably from 30 to 60°C, and the period required for the reaction is normally from about 20 minutes to about 20 hours, more preferably from 30 minutes to 2 hours.

Method B

10 α -Halocarboxylic acid derivatives of formula (II) in which W represents a $>C=O$ group, that is compounds of formula (IIb), may be prepared as illustrated in the following reaction scheme:



In the above formulae, R^1-R^5 , n , A and X are as defined above. The reaction sequence comprises the following steps:

Step (B1)

5 The acetophenone derivative of formula (XIII) which is one of the starting materials for this step may be prepared, for example, as described in Chem. Berichte, 95, 1413. The other starting materials, the ~~acetophenone~~ p-nitrophenoxyalkyl alkyl ketones of formula (XIV), may
10 be prepared, for example, as described in J. Med. Chem., 21, 386 (1978) and J. Am. Chem. Soc., 99, 7653 (1977).

In this step, the compounds (XIII) and (XIV) are reacted together in the presence of a secondary amine, as described, for example, in Japanese Patent
15 Application Kokai No. 19670/77.

~~The reaction is preferably effected in the presence~~ The reaction is preferably effected in the presence of a solvent, the nature of which is not critical, provided that it has no adverse effect upon the reaction. Suitable solvents include: aliphatic and
20 aromatic hydrocarbons, such as petroleum ether, benzene, toluene, xylene, hexane and cyclohexane; halogenated aliphatic and aromatic hydrocarbons, such as carbon tetrachlorid, methylene chloride, chloroform,

chlorobenzene and dichlorobenzene; ethers, such as diethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran and dioxane; amides, such as dimethylformamide, dimethylacetamide and N-methylpyrrolidone; alcohols, such as methanol, ethanol
5 and ethylene glycol monomethyl ether; esters, such as ethyl acetate; nitriles, such as acetonitrile; and sulphoxides, such as dimethyl sulphoxide.

The secondary amine employed in this reaction is preferably a compound of formula R^9-NH-R^{10} , in which
10 R^9 and R^{10} may be the same or different and each represents an alkyl group or R^9 and R^{10} , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, represent a nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring system. Examples of such secondary amines include
15 diethylamine, dimethylamine, N-methylpiperazine, pyrrolidine, piperidine or morpholine, of which pyrrolidine is particularly preferred.

The molar ratio of the compound of formula (XIII) to the compound of formula (XIV) is not particularly
20 critical, but, to avoid waste, roughly equimolar amounts of the two compounds are used. In general, the amount of secondary amine is preferably from 0.05 to 1.5 moles, more preferably from 0.1 to 1 mole, per mole of the compound of formula (XIII) or (XIV).

25 The reaction conditions, particularly reaction

temperature and time, may vary depending upon a number of factors, especially the nature of the starting materials and of the solvent, but, in general, we prefer to carry out the reaction at a temperature of from -30°C to +150°C, more preferably from 10 to 120°C, for a period of from 30 minutes to 3 days.

Step (B2)

In this step, the nitro compound of formula (XV) prepared as in step (B1) is reduced to the corresponding amino compound of formula (XVI). This reaction is precisely the same as step (A3) of Method A, employing the same reaction conditions and reagents.

Step (B3)

In this step, the amino compound of formula (XVI), obtained as described in step (B2), is diazotized and then subjected to a Meerwein arylation, to give the desired α -halocarboxylic acid derivative of formula (IIb). These reactions are precisely the same as those described in step (A4) of Method A and may be carried out employing the same reagents and reaction conditions.

If desired, the corresponding α -halocarboxylic acid derivative of formula (II) in which W r presents a

>CH-OH or >CH-OR^{6'} group may be prepared following essentially the same procedures as described in steps (c) and (d) of the process of the present invention; it is, however, much preferred that, instead, the compound
5 of formula (IIb) should be employed as the starting material in the process of the invention and that steps (c) and optionally (d) should be carried out, if desired, as part of the process of the invention.

The compounds of formulae (IIa) and (IIb) prepared
10 as described above in Methods (A) and (B) can, if desired, be converted to various of their hydrolysis products or may be transesterified or converted to salts, for example such metal salts as the sodium, potassium, calcium or aluminium salts. Alternatively,
15 they can be converted from metal salts or from compounds having free hydroxyphenyl groups or free carboxy groups to derivatives thereof, for example as follows:

Compounds in which R³ represents a hydrogen atom and A represents a carboxy group can be prepared by
20 hydrolysis of the corresponding compound of formula (II) in which, for example, R³ represents an acyl group and A represents an alkoxycarbonyl group. This reaction is preferably effected in the presence of a base, for example: an inorganic base, such as an alkali metal
25 carbonate (e.g. sodium carbonate or potassium carbonate)

or an alkali metal hydroxide (e.g. sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide); or an organic base, such as an alkali metal alkoxide (e.g. sodium methoxide, sodium ethoxide or potassium t-butoxide). The reaction is preferably effected in the presence of a solvent, the nature of which is not critical, provided that it has no adverse effect upon the reaction. Suitable solvents include: lower alcohols, such as methanol or ethanol; ethers, such as tetrahydrofuran or dioxane; water; or mixtures of any two or more thereof.

The molar ratio of the compound of formula (II) to the base is preferably from 1:1 to 1:5, more preferably from 1:2 to 1:3. Although the reaction conditions, particularly the reaction temperature and time, may vary depending upon a number of factors, particularly the natures of the starting material, base and solvent employed, the reaction is generally carried out at a temperature of from -10°C to $+30^{\circ}\text{C}$, more preferably from 0 to 10°C , and the reaction time is generally from several minutes to several tens of hours.

The compound of formula (II) in which R^3 represents a hydrogen atom and A represents an alkoxy carbonyl group can be prepared by solvolysis of the corresponding compound in which R^3 represents an acyl group and A represents an alkoxy carbonyl group.

This is carried out in the presence of a base, preferably an alkali metal alkoxide, such as sodium methoxide, sodium ethoxide or potassium t-butoxide. The reaction is preferably effected in the presence of a solvent, for example: an alcohol, such as methanol, ethanol, propanol, isopropanol or t-butanol; an ether, such as tetrahydrofuran or dioxane; or a mixture of any two or more thereof. If the alkoxycarbonyl group represented by A in the starting material is to be kept intact, it is preferred that the alkali metal alkoxide should be the alkoxide corresponding to this alkoxycarbonyl group and that the solvent should be an alcohol, which likewise corresponds to the alkoxycarbonyl group. However, the alkoxycarbonyl group in the starting material may, if desired, be converted into any other alkoxycarbonyl group by suitable choice of the alkali metal alkoxide and the alcohol solvent.

The molar ratio of the compound of formula (II) to the base is preferably from 1:1 to 1:3, more preferably from 1:1 to 1:2. The reaction conditions, especially the reaction temperature and reaction time, may vary, depending upon a number of factors, particularly the natures of the starting materials, bases and solvents employed, but the reaction is preferably carried out at a temperature of from -10°C to $+30^{\circ}\text{C}$, more preferably from 0 to 10°C , for a period of from several minutes to

several tens of hours.

Compounds of formula (II) in which R^3 represents an acyl group and A represents a carboxy group may be prepared by hydrolysis of the corresponding compound of formula (II) in which R^3 represents an acyl group and A represents an alkoxycarbonyl group. In this case, the hydrolysis is effected in the presence of an inorganic base (for example an alkali metal carbonate, such as sodium carbonate or potassium carbonate, or an alkali metal hydroxide, such as sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide) or in the presence of another base such as an alkali metal alkoxide (for example sodium methoxide, sodium ethoxide or potassium t-butoxide). This reaction is preferably effected in the presence of a solvent, for example: a lower alcohol, such as methanol or ethanol; an ether, such as tetrahydrofuran or dioxane; water; or a mixture of any two or more thereof. The molar ratio of the compound of formula (II) to the base is preferably from 1:1 to 1:5, more preferably from 1:1 to 1:2. The reaction conditions, particularly the reaction temperature and time, may vary depending upon a number of factors, especially the natures of the starting materials, bases and solvents employed, but the reaction is normally effected at a temperature of from -10°C to $+30^{\circ}\text{C}$, more preferably from 0 to 10°C for a period of from several minutes to several tens of hours.

In the α -halocarboxylic acid compounds of formula (II), the carbon atom at the 2- position of the chroman ring and that carbon atom to which the group A and the atom X are both attached are both asymmetric and accordingly give rise to stereoisomers, all of which are represented herein by a single formula. However, of course, the isomers may, if desired, be separated by conventional means and the present invention envisages the use of both individual isomers and mixtures thereof.

10 The α -halocarboxylic acid compounds of formula (II) have also been observed to lower the level of blood lipid peroxides and, in addition, have the effect of lowering blood triglycerides and blood cholesterol. They can therefore be expected to be useful as
15 antihyperlipaemic agents.

Of the compounds of formula (II) which exhibit the therapeutic effects mentioned above and which also form part of the present invention, preferred compounds are those listed below:

- 20 1. 2-chloro-3-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]propionic acid
2. 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionic acid

3. Ethyl 2-chloro-3-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]propionate
4. Ethyl 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionate
- 5 5. Ethyl 3-[4-(6-benzoyloxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionate
6. 3-[4-(7-t-butyl-6-hydroxy-2-methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionic acid
7. Ethyl 3-[4-(7-t-butyl-6-hydroxy-2-methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionate
- 10 2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionate
8. Ethyl 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-7-t-butyl-2-methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionate
9. 2-chloro-3-[4-(6-hydroxy-2-methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]propionic acid
- 15 10. Ethyl 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-2-methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)-phenyl]-2-chloropropionate
11. 2-chloro-3-[4-(6-hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxy-2,5-dimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]propionic acid

12. 3-{4-[2-(6-acetoxy-7,8-dimethoxy-5-methylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]phenyl}-2-chloropropionic acid
13. Ethyl 2-bromo-3-[4-(2-ethyl-6-hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxy-5-methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]propionate
- 5 14. 2-chloro-3-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,7-dimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]propionic acid
15. Ethyl 2-chloro-3-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,7-dimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]propionate
16. Ethyl 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,7-dimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionate
- 10 17. Ammonium 2-chloro-3-[4-[2-(2-ethyl-6-hydroxy-5,7-diisopropylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]phenyl]propionate
18. 3-{4-[6-(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxybenzoyloxy)-5,7-diisopropyl-2-methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy]phenyl}-2-chloropropionic acid
- 15 19. Sodium 2-chloro-3-[4-[3-(8-ethyl-5,7-diisopentyl-6-p-methylbenzoyloxy-2-propylchroman-2-yl)propoxy]phenyl]propionate
20. Potassium 2-chloro-3-[4-[2-(5,7-dibutyl-6-cyclo-

- hexanecarbonyloxy-2-isopropyl-8-propylchroman-2-yl)-
ethoxy]phenyl]propionate
21. Aluminum tris{3-[4-(2-butyl-6-2'-furoxyloxy-7-
isopentyl-5,8-dimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-
5 chloropropionate}
22. 2-chloro-3-{4-[2-(2-isopentyl-5,7-dimethyl-
6-phenylacetoxychroman-2-yl)ethoxy]phenyl}propionamide
23. Ethyl 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-2-ethyl-5,7,8-trimethyl-
chroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionate
- 10 24. Ethyl 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-2-isobutyl-5,7,8-trimethyl-
chroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionate
25. 2-chloro-3-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-4-oxo-
chroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]propionic acid
26. 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-4-oxochroman-
15 2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionic acid
27. Ethyl 2-chloro-3-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetra-
methyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]propionate
28. Ethyl 3-[4-(6-ac toxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-4-
oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionate

29. Ethyl 3-[4-(6-benzoyloxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionate
30. 3-[4-(7-t-butyl-6-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionic acid
- 5 31. Ethyl 3-[4-(7-t-butyl-6-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionate
32. Ethyl 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-7-t-butyl-2-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionate
33. 2-chloro-3-[4-(6-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]propionic acid
- 10 34. Ethyl 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-2-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionate
35. 2-chloro-3-[4-(6-hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxy-2,5-dimethyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]propionic acid
- 15 36. 3-[4-[2-(6-acetoxy-7,8-dimethoxy-5-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-yl)ethoxy]phenyl]-2-chloropropionic acid
37. Ethyl 2-bromo-3-[4-(2-ethyl-6-hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxy-5-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-propionate

38. 2-chloro-3-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,7-dimethyl-4-oxo-chroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]propionic acid
39. Ethyl 2-chloro-3-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,7-dimethyl-4-oxo-chroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]propionate
- 5 40. Ethyl 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,7-dimethyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionate
41. Ammonium 2-chloro-3-[4-[2-(2-ethyl-6-hydroxy-5,7-diisopropyl-4-oxochroman-2-yl)ethoxy]phenyl]propionate
42. 2-chloro-3-[4-[6-(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxy-10 benzoyloxy)-5,7-diisopropyl-2-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy]phenyl]propionic acid
43. Sodium 2-chloro-3-[4-[3-(8-ethyl-5,7-diisopentyl-6-p-methylbenzoyloxy-4-oxo-2-propylchroman-2-yl)propoxy]phenyl]propionate
- 15 44. Potassium 2-chloro-3-[4-[2-(5,7-dibutyl-6-cyclohexanecarbonyloxy-2-isopropyl-4-oxo-8-propylchroman-2-yl)-ethoxy]phenyl]propionate
45. Aluminium tris[3-[4-(2-butyl-6-2'-furoyloxy-7-isopentyl-5,8-dimethyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-20 chloropropionate]

46. 2-chloro-3-[4-[2-(2-isopentyl-5,7-dimethyl-4-oxo-6-phenylacetoxychroman-2-yl)ethoxy]phenyl]propionamide

47. 2-chloro-3-[4-(6-hydroxy-2-isobutyl-5,7,8-trimethyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]propionic acid

The compounds of the invention have been shown to have a very strong ability to lower the level of lipid peroxides, as demonstrated by the test against rat liver microsomal lipid peroxidation described in Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun., 95, 734 (1980). In addition, in experiments using alloxan-induced hyperlipaemic mice, the compounds have demonstrated the ability to lower blood lipid peroxide, triglyceride and cholesterol levels. Moreover, the compounds of the invention are less toxic than many known compounds to experimental animals such as rats, as assessed by tests in which the appetite, body weight and hepatic enlargement are checked.

Accordingly, it is considered that the compounds of the present invention will be useful for the therapeutic treatment of human hyperlipaemia, diabetes and complications thereof, especially diabetes mellitus. The compounds of the invention may be administered orally, for example in the form of tablets, capsules,

powders or granules, or parenterally, for example by injection or in the form of a suppository. The recommended dosage will, of course, vary depending upon the age and body weight of the patient as well as the nature and severity of the disease. However, for an adult human patient, a daily dose of from 50 mg to 5 g (which may be administered in a single dose or in divided doses) is recommended in the treatment of hyperlipaemia, diabetes mellitus and complications thereof.

The following Examples illustrate the preparation of various of the compounds of the present invention, whilst the subsequent Test Examples illustrate the valuable biological properties of these compounds.

Preparation of various of the starting materials employed in the Examples is illustrated in the subsequent Preparations.

In the nuclear magnetic resonance spectra reported in the Examples and Preparations, the abbreviation "D" means that the signal disappeared upon the addition of heavy water (D_2O), and the abbreviation "nd" means that precise identification of the signal was not possible because of overlap by other signals or the absorption of the solvent.

EXAMPLE 1(a) 5-[4-(6-Hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one

A mixture of 9.6 g of ethyl 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionate, 1.8 g of thiourea and 11 ml of sulpholane was reacted for 80 minutes under a nitrogen stream at 115-120°C. Subsequently, a mixture of 90 ml of acetic acid, 30 ml of concentrated hydrochloric acid and 15 ml of water was added to this, and the resulting mixture was further heated for 12 hours at 85-90°C. 27 g of sodium bicarbonate were added to this reaction mixture, and, once evolution of carbon dioxide had ceased, the solvent was distilled off. A 10:1 by volume mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate was added to the residue, and the crude product was washed with a mixture of equal volumes of a saturated aqueous solution of sodium bicarbonate and water. The white powder produced was removed by filtration and washed again with water. It was then recrystallized from acetone to give 2.2 g of 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)-benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one, melting at 205-207°C

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (heptad uterated
dimethylformamide + D₂O) δ ppm:

- 1.37 (3H, singlet);
- about 2 (2H, multiplet);
- 5 2.02 (3H, singlet);
- 2.14 (6H, singlet);
- 2.3-3.1 (solvent absorption);
- 3.42 (1H, doublet of doublets, J=15 & 4.5Hz);
- 4.60 (1H, doublet of doublets, J=9 & 4.5Hz);
- 10 6.93 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz);
- 7.23 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz).

(b) 5-[4-(6-Hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

The organic solution produced by removing the white
15 powder in step (a) above was washed with water and dried
over anhydrous sodium sulphate. The solvent was then
distilled off. The resulting crude product was purified
by column chromatography through silica gel eluted with
a mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate first in a volume
20 ratio of 10:1 and then in a volume ratio of 10:1.4. 3.4
g of the desired 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetra-
methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
melting at 184-186°C, were obtained from the fractions
elut d with the latter mixture.

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (hexadeuterated acetone) δ ppm:

- 1.39 (3H, singlet);
about 2 (2H, multiplet);
5 2.02 (3H, singlet);
2.09 (3H, singlet);
2.13 (3H, singlet);
2.63 (2H, broad triplet, $J=6\text{Hz}$);
3.07 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 9Hz);
10 3.41 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 4.5Hz);
3.97 (2H, AB Type, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
4.70 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=9$ & 4.5Hz);
6.90 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
7.21 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$).

15

EXAMPLE 2

5-[4-(6-Hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

- 3.1 g of 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one
20 [prepared as described in Example 1(a)] were added to a mixture of 45 ml of acetic acid, 15 ml of concentrated hydrochloric acid and 8 ml of water, and the mixture was reacted for 12 hours at $85-90^{\circ}\text{C}$. It was then processed and purified in a similar manner to Example 1(a), giving

2.5 g of 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione, whose melting point and nuclear magnetic resonance spectrum were consistent with those of the product of Example 1(b).

5

EXAMPLE 3

(a) Benzene mono adduct of 5-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

0.725 g of 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-
10 chroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione was dissolved in 4 ml of benzene; 400 mg of dry pyridine were added; 0.2 g of acetic anhydride was added dropwise under a nitrogen stream at 5-10°C; and the mixture was reacted for 2 days at room temperature. The resulting
15 white crystals were separated by filtration, washed with benzene and vacuum-dried for 30 minutes at 90°C, giving 0.74 g of the benzene mono adduct of 5-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-thiazolidine-2,4-dione. This substance was liquefied at
20 98-100°C, solidified and again liquefied at 176-178°C.

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (CDCl₃) δ ppm:

1.42 (3H, singlet);

1.98 (3H, singlet);

- about 2 (2H, multiplet);
- 2.03 (3H, singlet);
- 2.09 (3H, singlet);
- 2.31 (3H, singlet);
- 5 2.63 (2H, broad triplet, J=6Hz);
- 3.03 (1H, doublet of doublets, J=15 & 9Hz);
- 3.42 (1H, doublet of doublets, J=15 & 4.5Hz);
- 3.84 and 3.98 (2H, AB Type, J=9Hz);
- 4.45 (1H, doublet of doublets, J=9 & 4.5Hz);
- 10 6.87 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz);
- 7.15 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz);
- 7.38 (6H, singlet);
- 8-8.5 (1H, broad singlet).

Elemental Analysis:

15 Calculated for $C_{26}H_{29}NO_6S.C_6H_6$:

C, 68.45%, H, 6.28%, N, 2.50%, S, 5.70%.

Found: C, 68.54%, H, 6.13%, N, 2.51%, S, 5.87%.

(b) 5-[4-(6-Acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

- 20 In order that the desired free 5-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-thiazolidine-2,4-dione could be obtained, 730 mg of the benzene mono adduct obtained as described in step (a) above were dissolved in 5 ml of acetone; the solvent was
- 25 distilled off; the residue was solidified by adding

water; and the white amorphous powder produced was vacuum-dried in a dessicator in the presence of phosphorus pentoxide, to give 0.61 g of the title compound, softening at about 90°C.

5 Elemental Analysis:

Calculated for $C_{26}H_{29}NO_6S$:

C, 64.60%, H, 6.06%, N, 2.90%, S, 6.62%.

Found: C, 64.34%, H, 6.15%, N, 2.84%, S, 6.55%.

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (hexadeuterated

10 acetone) δ ppm:

1.41 (3H, singlet);

1.97 (3H, singlet);

1.98 (3H, singlet);

about 2 (2H, nd);

15 2.04 (3H, singlet);

2.27 (3H, singlet);

2.67 (2H, broad triplet, $J=6\text{Hz}$);

3.07 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 9Hz);

3.42 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 4.5Hz);

20 4.00 (2H, AB Type, $J=9\text{Hz}$);

4.71 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=9$ & 4.5Hz);

6.91 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);

7.21 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$).

EXAMPLE 45-[4-(6-Acetoxy-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)-
benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one

The procedure described in Example 1(a) was
5 repeated, except that 490 mg of ethyl 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-
5,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-
chloropropionate, 100 mg of thiourea and 2 ml of
sulpholane were heated at 110-120°C for 5 hours. The
product was then treated as described in Example 1(a).
10 except that the crude product (in the form of crystals)
was washed with ethyl acetate, to give the title
compound, softening at 228-236°C.

Mass spectrum (m/e): 468 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (hexadeuterated
15 dimethyl sulphoxide + $CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

1.92 (3H, singlet);

1.93 (3H, singlet);

2.02 (3H, singlet);

1.63-2.17 (2H, nd);

20 2.30 (3H, singlet);

2.57-3.97 (4H, nd);

4.0-4.37 (3H, nd);

4.53 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=9$ & 4Hz);

6.93 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz);
7.19 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz);
8.5-9.0 (2H, broad singlet, D).

EXAMPLE 5

5 (a) 5-[4-(6-Acetoxy-2,7-dimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)-
benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

The reactions described in Example 1(a) were repeated, except that 1.5 g of ethyl 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,7-dimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-
10 chloropropionate, 300 mg of thiourea and 2 ml of sulpholane were heated at 120°C for 2 hours. The reaction mixture was then purified by adding diethyl ether to the reaction mixture, and distilling off the solvent to leave a residue. This residue was purified
15 by column chromatography through silica gel eluted first with a 9:1 by volume mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate, to give the title compound.

Mass spectrum (m/e): 455 (M⁺).

R_f value: 0.41 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel,
20 developing solvent: 4:1 by volume mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (CDCl_3) δ ppm:

- 1.42 (3H, singlet);
1.65-2.4 (2H, multiplet);
2.10 (3H, singlet);
5 2.28 (3H, singlet);
2.73 (2H, broad triplet, $J=6\text{Hz}$);
3.0-3.6 (2H, multiplet);
3.93 (2H, AB Type, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
4.50 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=9$ & 4.5Hz);
10 6.70 (1H, singlet);
6.73 (1H, singlet);
6.85 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
7.15 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
8.7-9.0 (1H, broad singlet, D).

15 (b) 5-[4-(6-Acetoxy-2,7-dimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)-
benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one

The silica gel chromatography column described in Example 5(a) was then eluted with a 1:4 by volume mixture of benzene and tetrahydrofuran, to give the 20 title compound as a solid softening at $170-175^\circ\text{C}$.

Rf value: 0.57 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel, developing solvent: 1:4 by volume mixture of benzene and tetrahydrofuran).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 454 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (heptadeuterated dimethylformamide) δ ppm:

- 1.39 (3H, singlet);
- 5 1.7-2.2 (2H, multiplet);
- 2.03 (3H, singlet);
- 2.27 (3H, singlet);
- 2.6-3.0 (3H, nd);
- 3.0-4.0 (1H, broad singlet, D);
- 10 3.42 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 4.5Hz);
- 4.02 (2H, singlet);
- 4.53 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=9$ & 4.5Hz);
- 6.65 (1H, singlet);
- 6.79 (1H, singlet);
- 15 6.95 (2H, doublet, $J=9$ Hz);
- 7.21 (2H, doublet, $J=9$ Hz);
- 8.4-9.0 (1H, broad singlet, D).

EXAMPLE 6

5-{4-[2-(6-Acetoxy-7-t-butyl-2-methylchroman-2-yl)-
 20ethoxy]benzyl}-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one

The procedur described in Example 1(a) was repeated, except that 266 mg of ethyl 3-{4-[2-(6-acetoxy-7-t-butyl-2-methylchroman-2-yl) thoxy]phenyl}-2-

chloropropionate, 50 mg of thiourea and 4 ml of
sulpholane were heated at 110-120°C for 4.5 hours. The
product was treated as described in Example 1(a) except
that the crude product was purified by column
5 chromatography through silica gel eluted with a 1:1 by
volume mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate, to give the
title compound, melting at 175-178°C.

Mass spectrum (m/e): 510 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (hexadeuterated
10 dimethyl sulphoxide) δ ppm:

- 1.24 (9H, singlet);
- 1.31 (3H, singlet);
- 1.82 (2H, broad triplet, $J=7\text{Hz}$);
- 2.03 (2H, broad triplet, $J=7\text{Hz}$);
- 15 2.25 (3H, singlet);
- 2.68 (2H, triplet, $J=7\text{Hz}$);
- 2.87 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=14$ & 9Hz);
- 3.30 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=14$ & 4Hz);
- 4.13 (2H, triplet, $J=7\text{Hz}$);
- 20 4.51 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=9$ & 4Hz);
- 6.68 (1H, singlet);
- 6.75 (1H, singlet);
- 6.87 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
- 7.15 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
- 25 8.67 (1H, broad singlet, D);

8.88 (1H, broad singlet, D).

EXAMPLE 7

5-{4-[2-(6-Acetoxy-7,8-dimethoxy-2,5-dimethylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl}-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one

5 The procedure described in Example 1(a) was repeated, except that 558 mg of ethyl 3-{4-[2-(6-acetoxy-7,8-dimethoxy-2,5-dimethylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]-phenyl}-2-chloropropionate, 100 mg of thiourea and 12 ml of sulpholane were heated at 110-115°C for 3.5
10 hours. The product was subsequently treated as described in Example 1(a), except that the crude product, in the form of an oil, was purified by column chromatography through silica gel, eluted with a 20:1 by volume mixture of ethyl acetate and methanol, to give
15 the title compound, softening at 103-110°C.

Mass spectrum (m/e): 528 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (hexadeuterated acetone) δ ppm:

1.39 (3H, singlet);
20 1.94 (3H, singlet);
1.8-2.15 (4H, nd);
2.23 (3H, singlet);

- 2.63 (2H, broad triplet, J=6Hz);
2.83 (1H, doublet of doublets, J=15 & 9Hz);
3.42 (1H, doublet of doublets, J=15 & 5Hz);
3.77 (3H, singlet);
5 3.78 (3H, singlet);
4.21 (2H, broad triplet, J=6Hz);
4.45 (1H, doublet of doublets, J=9 & 5Hz);
6.87 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz);
7.19 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz);
10 7.7-8.2 (1H, broad singlet, D).

EXAMPLE 8

5-{4-[2-(6-Hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-yl)-ethoxy]benzyl}thiazolidine-2,4-dione

- 1.6 g of ethyl 3-{4-[2-(6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetra-
15 methylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]phenyl}-2-chloropropionate,
300 mg of thiourea and 2 ml of sulpholane were heated at
110-115°C for 3 hours under a nitrogen stream. A
mixture of 4 ml of water, 2 ml of ethylene glycol
monomethyl ether and 1 ml of concentrated hydrochloric
20 acid was then added and the whole mixture was heated at
95-97°C for 4.5 hours. The mixture was then treated as
described in Example 1(a), except that the crude
product, in the form of an oil, was purified by column
chromatography through silica gel, eluted with a 10:1 by

volume mixture of benzene and ethyl acetat , to give the
title compound, melting at 152-154°C.

Mass spectrum (m/e): 455 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (hexadeuterated
5 acetone) δ ppm:

- 1.34 (3H, singlet);
- 1.87 (2H, broad triplet, $J=7\text{Hz}$);
- 2.03 (3H, singlet);
- 2.07 (3H, singlet);
- 10 2.14 (3H, singlet);
- 2.0 (2H, nd);
- 2.64 (2H, broad triplet, $J=7\text{Hz}$);
- 3.07 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 9Hz);
- 3.41 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 4.5Hz);
- 15 4.0-4.4 (3H, multiplet);
- 4.70 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=9$ & 4.5Hz);
- 6.95 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
- 7.20 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$).

EXAMPLE 9

(a) 5-{4-[2-(6-Hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl}thiazolidine-2,4-dione

The procedure described in Example 1(a) was
5 repeated, except that 13.5 g of ethyl 2-chloro-3-{4-[2-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]-phenyl}propionate, 4.4 g of thiourea and 20 ml of sulpholane were reacted for 14 hours at 110°C. The crude product was dissolved in ethyl acetate and the
10 solution was washed with water and dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate. The solvent was then distilled off under reduced pressure and the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography through silica gel. This was first eluted with a 4:1 by volume mixture of
15 benzene and ethyl acetate, and from these fractions were obtained the desired 5-{4-[2-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl}thiazolidine-2,4-dione, whose melting point and nuclear magnetic resonance spectra agreed with those of the product of
20 Example 8.

(b) 5-{4-[2-(6-Hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl}-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one

The column described in Example 9(a) above was then

eluted with a 1:1 by volume mixture of benzene and tetrahydrofuran, and from the resulting fractions were obtained the desired 5-{4-[2-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl}-2-imino-5 thiazolidin-4-one, melting at 175-180°C.

Mass spectrum (m/e): 454 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (hexadeuterated dimethyl sulphoxide) δ ppm:

- 1.28 (3H, singlet);
- 10 1.6-2.2 (13H, nd);
- 2.2-3.2 (2H, nd);
- 2.80 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 9Hz);
- 3.1-3.5 (1H, nd);
- 3.9-4.3 (2H, multiplet);
- 15 5.5 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=9$ & 4.5 Hz);
- 6.82 (2H, doublet, $J=9$ Hz);
- 7.15 (2H, doublet, $J=9$ Hz);
- 7.37 (1H, singlet, D);
- 8.67 (1H, broad singlet, D);
- 20 8.89 (1H, broad singlet, D).

EXAMPLE 105-[4-(6-Hydroxy-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)-
benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

290 mg of 5-[4-(6-acetoxy-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-
5 2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one (prepared
as described in Example 4) were added to a mixture of 3
ml of concentrated hydrochloric acid, 1.5 ml of water
and 5 ml of ethylene glycol monomethyl ether, and the
mixture was heated under reflux for 3.5 hours. The
10 reaction mixture was then processed and purified as
described in Example 1(a), and the crude product, in the
form of an oil, was subjected to column chromatography
through silica gel. The title compound, melting at
158-159°C, was obtained from the fractions eluted with a
15 4:1 by volume mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate.

Mass spectrum (m/e): 427 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (hexadeuterated
dimethyl sulphoxide) δ ppm:

1.99 (3H, singlet);
20 2.04 (3H, singlet);
2.06 (3H, singlet);
1.5-2.25 (2H, nd);
2.25-2.87 (2H, nd);

- 2.87-3.5 (2H, nd);
3.97-4.34 (3H, nd);
4.87 (1H, doublet of doublets, J=9 & 4Hz);
6.98 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz);
5 7.20 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz);
7.44 (1H, broad singlet, D);
11.3-12.3 (1H, broad singlet, D).

EXAMPLE 11

10 5-[4-(6-Hydroxy-2,7-dimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-
thiazolidine-2,4-dione

170 mg of 5-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,7-dimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one (prepared as described in Example 5) were added to a mixture of 0.2 ml of 2N hydrochloric acid and 2 ml of ethylene glycol
15 monomethyl ether, and the mixture was reacted at 95-97°C for 6 hours. It was then processed and purified as described in Example 1(a), except that the crude product, in the form of an oil, was subjected to column chromatography through silica gel, eluted with a 9:1 by
20 volume mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate, to give the title compound.

Rf value: 0.36 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel,
developing solvent: 4:1 by volume mixture of benzene and

thyl acetate).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 413 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

- 1.42 (3H, singlet);
- 5 1.78 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 7Hz);
- 2.07 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 7Hz);
- 2.17 (3H, singlet);
- 2.68 (2H, broad triplet, $J=7$ Hz);
- 3.06 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 9Hz);
- 10 3.46 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 4.5Hz);
- 3.88 (2H, AB Type, $J=9$ Hz);
- 4.4-4.6 (2H, multiplet), changing after adding D_2O
to 4.47 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=9$ & 4.5Hz);
- 6.50 (1H, singlet);
- 15 6.62 (1H, singlet);
- 6.87 (2H, doublet, $J=9$ Hz);
- 7.15 (2H, doublet, $J=9$ Hz);
- 8.4-8.6 (1H, broad singlet, D).

EXAMPLE 12

20 5-[4-[2-(7-t-Butyl-6-hydroxy-2-methylchroman-2-yl)-
ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

75 mg of 5-[4-[2-(6-acetoxy-7-t-butyl-2-

methylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl)-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one (prepared as described in Example 6) were added to a mixture of 0.5 ml of concentrated hydrochloric acid, 2 ml of water and 2 ml of ethylene glycol monomethyl ether, and the mixture was heated under reflux for 4 hours. The mixture was then processed and purified by the procedures described in Example 1(a), except that the crude product, in the form of an oil, was purified by column chromatography through silica gel, eluted with a 5:1 by volume mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate, to give the title compound.

R_f value: 0.21 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel, developing solvent: 5:1 by volume mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 469 (M⁺).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (hexadeuterated dimethyl sulphoxide) δ ppm:

1.30 (9H, singlet);
1.32 (3H, singlet);
1.77 (2H, broad triplet, J=7Hz);
1.99 (2H, broad triplet, J=7Hz);
2.60 (2H, broad triplet, J=7Hz);
3.03 (1H, doublet of doublets, J=15 & 9Hz);
3.29 (1H, doublet of doublets, J=15 & 4.5Hz);

- 4.11 (2H, broad triplet, J=7Hz);
4.85 (1H, doublet of doublets, J=9 & 4.5Hz);
6.48 (1H, singlet);
6.51 (1H, singlet);
5 6.89 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz);
7.16 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz);
8.63 (1H, broad singlet, D);
11.3-12.7 (1H, broad singlet, D).

EXAMPLE 13

10 5-{4-[2-(6-Hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxy-2,5-dimethylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl}thiazolidine-2,4-dione

560 mg of 5-{4-[2-(6-acetoxy-7,8-dimethoxy-2,5-dimethylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl}-2-iminothiazolidine-4-one (prepared as described in Example 7) were added to
15 a mixture of 7 ml of concentrated hydrochloric acid, 2.5 ml of water and 10 ml of ethylene glycol monomethyl ether, and the mixture was heated under reflux for 13 hours. The reaction mixture was then processed and purified as described in Example 1(a), except that the
20 crude product, in the form of an oil, was purified by column chromatography through silica gel eluted with a 9:1 by volume mixture of chloroform and ethyl acetate, to give the title compound.

Rf value: 0.15 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel, developing solvent: 9:1 by volume mixture of chloroform and ethyl acetate).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 487 (M^+).

5 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

- 1.39 (3H, singlet);
- 1.90 (2H, broad triplet, $J=6\text{Hz}$);
- 2.10 (3H, singlet);
- 2.15 (2H, broad triplet, $J=6\text{Hz}$);
- 10 2.62 (2H, broad triplet, $J=6\text{Hz}$);
- 3.09 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 9Hz);
- 3.45 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 5Hz);
- 3.85 (3H, singlet);
- 3.95 (3H, singlet);
- 15 4.20 (2H, broad triplet, $J=6\text{Hz}$);
- 4.49 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=9$ & 5Hz);
- 5.40 (1H, singlet, D);
- 6.87 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
- 7.16 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
- 20 8.1-8.4 (1H, broad singlet, D).

EXAMPLE 14

5-[4-[2-(6-Hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-yl)-ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

The reaction described in Example 13 was repeated,
5 except that 5-[4-[2-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetra-
methylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-
one (prepared as described in Example 9) was used as the
starting material. This was subsequently treated as
described in Example 1(a) and then separated and
10 purified as in Example 8, to give the title compound,
whose melting point and mass and nuclear magnetic
resonance spectra agreed with those of the product of
Example 8.

EXAMPLES 15-18

15 The procedure described in Example 3 was repeated,
except that the acetic anhydride was replaced by the
appropriate acylating agent identified hereafter and, in
Example 18, a different thiazolidine derivative was
used, to give the following compounds:

20 Example 15

5-[4-(6-butyryloxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-

ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione, using benzyryl chloride.

Melting at: 147-150°C.

Mass spectrum (m/e): 511 (M^+).

5 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

1.06 (3H, triplet, $J=6Hz$);

1.65-2.2 (13H, multiplet);

2.45-2.75 (4H, multiplet).

Example 16

10 5-[4-(6-benzoyloxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione, from benzoic anhydride.

Rf value: 0.53 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel,

developing solvent: 4:1 by volume mixture of benzene and

15 ethyl acetate).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 545 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (hexadeuterated dimethyl sulphoxide) δ ppm:

7.45-7.85 (3H, multiplet);

8.05-8.3 (2H, multiplet).

Example 17

5-[4-(2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-6-nicotinoyloxychroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione, from nicotinoyl
5 chloride hydrochloride.

Melting at: 196-198°C.

Mass spectrum (m/e): 546 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

7.35-7.65 (1H, multiplet);
10 8.43-8.65 (1H, multiplet);
8.7-9.1 (1H, multiplet);
9.4-9.6 (1H, multiplet).

Example 18

5-[4-[2-(2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-6-nicotinoyloxychroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione, from
15 nicotinoyl chloride hydrochloride and 5-[4-[2-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]-thiazolidine-2,4-dione (prepared as described in Example 14).

Rf value: 0.45 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel, developing solvent: 1:1 by volume mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 560 (M^+).

5 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (heptadeuterated dimethylformamide) δ ppm:

- 7.6-7.85 (1H, multiplet);
- 8.5-8.7 (1H, multiplet);
- 8.9-9.1 (1H, multiplet);
- 10 9.35-9.5 (1H, multiplet).

In the nuclear magnetic resonance spectra reported in the above Examples 15-18, only those signals are reported which are characteristic of the 6-acyloxy part of the compound prepared.

15

EXAMPLE 19

5-[4-(2-Ethyl-6-hydroxy-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

- 2.4 g of ethyl 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-2-ethyl-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloro-
20 propionate, 494 mg of thiourea and 3 ml of sulpholane
were heated under a nitrogen stream for 4.5 hours at

- 100-110°C. At the end of this time, 3 ml of ethylene glycol monomethyl ether, 3 ml of water and 1 ml of concentrated hydrochloric acid were added and the resulting mixture was heated for a further 3.5 hours at
- 5 96-98°C. The reaction mixture was then processed as described in Example 1(a) and the resulting crude product, in the form of an oil, was purified by column chromatography, eluted with a 10:1 by volume mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate, to give the title compound.
- 10 Rf value: 0.29 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel, developing solvent: 4:1 by volume mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 455 (M^+).

- Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (hexadeuterated
- 15 dimethyl sulphoxide) δ ppm:

0.90 (3H, triplet, $J=6\text{Hz}$);

1.5-2.1 (4H, nd);

1.99 (3H, singlet);

2.01 (3H, singlet);

20 2.05 (3H, singlet);

2.4-2.7 (2H, multiplet);

2.8-3.7 (2H, nd);

3.94 (2H, singlet);

4.84 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=9$ & 4.5Hz);

6.90 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz);
7.15 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz);
7.40 (1H, broad singlet, D).

EXAMPLE 20

5 5-[4-(6-Hydroxy-2-isobutyl-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

1.99 g of ethyl 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-2-isobutyl-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionate, 0.42 g of thiourea and 2.1 g of sulpholane
10 were reacted under a nitrogen stream at 125-150°C for 3.5 hours. At the end of this time, 15 ml of ethylene glycol monomethyl ether, 4 ml of water and 2 ml of concentrated hydrochloric acid were added and the mixture was reacted for a further 3.5 hours at 96-98°C.
15 The reaction mixture was then treated as described in Example 1(a) and the resulting crude product, in the form of an oil, was purified by column chromatography through silica gel, eluted with a 5:1 by volume mixture of hexane and ethyl acetate, to give the title compound.
20 Rf value: 0.30 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel, developing solvent: 4:1 by volume mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 483 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

- 0.96 (3H, doublet, $J=6\text{Hz}$);
1.01 (3H, doublet, $J=6\text{Hz}$);
5 1.71 (2H, doublet, $J=6\text{Hz}$);
1.8-2.3 (3H, nd);
2.10 (6H, singlet);
2.16 (3H, singlet);
2.61 (2H, triplet, $J=6\text{Hz}$);
10 3.02 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=9$ & 15Hz);
3.43 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=4$ & 15Hz);
3.92 (2H, singlet);
4.33 (1H, singlet);
4.43 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=4$ & 9Hz);
15 6.85 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
7.13 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
8.4-9.0 (1H, broad).

EXAMPLE 21

Monosodium salt of 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetra-
20 methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

101 mg of 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-
chroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione were
suspended in 0.5 ml of 99.5% ethanol. 4.33 ml of a

0.0526N ethanolic solution of sodium hydroxide were then added to the suspension and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 hour. The crystals obtained by evaporating off the solvent under reduced pressure were
5 dried by heating them under reduced pressure at 60°C for 3 hours in the presence of phosphorus pentoxide, to give the title compound, melting at 203-208°C (with decomposition).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (hexadeuterated
10 dimethyl sulphoxide) δ ppm:

1.30 (3H, singlet);
1.66-2.10 (2H, multiplet);
1.96 (3H, singlet);
2.03 (3H, singlet);
15 2.05 (3H, singlet);
2.35-2.80 (3H, multiplet);
3.15-3.35 (1H, multiplet);
3.92 (2H, broad singlet);
4.09 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=4.5$ & 11.5Hz);
20 6.85 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
7.10 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
7.42 (1H, broad singlet, D).

Elemental analysis:

Calculated for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}_5\text{SNa}\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$:

25 C, 59.86%; H, 5.86%; N, 2.91%;
S, 6.66%; Na, 4.77%.

Found: C, 59.78%; H, 5.54%; N, 2.84%;
S, 6.37%; Na, 5.04%.

EXAMPLE 22

5 5-[4-(6-Hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-4-oxochroman-2-yl-
methoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

A mixture of 1.3 g of ethyl 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-
2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-
chloropropionate (prepared as described in Preparation
45), 0.4 g of thiourea and 2 g of sulpholane was heated
10 at 120-130°C for 4 hours under a nitrogen stream. Then
15 ml of ethylene glycol monomethyl ether, 4 ml of water
and 2 ml of concentrated hydrochloric acid were added,
in that order, to the reaction mixture, and heating was
continued, but at 70-90°C, for a further 2.5 days.
15 Water was then added to the reaction mixture, after
which it was extracted with benzene. The extract was
washed with water and dried over anhydrous sodium
sulphate. Benzene was distilled off from the extract.
The residue was subjected to silica gel column
20 chromatography, eluted with a 5:3 by volume mixture of
hexane and ethyl acetate, to yield 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-
2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-
thiazolidine-2,4-dione. Its softening point was 79-83°C.

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (CDCl₃) δ ppm:

- 1.50 (3H, singlet);
2.11 (3H, singlet);
2.22 (3H, singlet);
5 2.56 (3H, singlet);
2.66 (1H, doublet, J=15Hz);
3.05 (1H, doublet, J=15Hz);
3.05 (1H, doublet of doublets, J=9 & 15Hz);
3.42 (1H, doublet of doublets, J=4 & 15Hz);
10 3.95 (1H, doublet, J=10Hz);
4.07 (1H, doublet, J=10Hz);
4.46 (1H, doublet of doublets, J=4 & 9Hz);
4.5-5.2 (1H, broad singlet);
6.84 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz);
15 7.13 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz).

EXAMPLE 235-[4-(4,6-Dihydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-yl-methoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

450 mg of sodium borohydride were added to a mixture
20 of 278 mg of 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-4-oxo-
chroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione
(prepared as described in Example 22) and 9 ml of
methanol, and the resulting mixture was stirred at room
temperature for 2 hours. Then, a 1% w/v aqueous

solution of acetic acid was added to the reaction mixture, and the mixture was neutralized with an aqueous solution of potassium carbonate and extracted with ethyl acetate. The ethyl acetate solution was washed with
5 water and dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate. Ethyl acetate was distilled off from the mixture under reduced pressure, and the resulting residue was subjected to silica gel column chromatography, eluted with a 5:3 by volume mixture of hexane and ethyl acetate, to yield
10 5-[4-(4,6-dihydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-yl-methoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione. Its melting point was 102-118°C.

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (hexadeuterated acetone and D₂O) δ ppm:

- 15 1.52 (3H, singlet);
 2.01 (3H, singlet);
 2.13 (3H, singlet);
 2.29 (3H, singlet);
 1.9-2.5 (1H, nd);
20 2.9-3.6 (2H, multiplet);
 4.03 (2H, singlet);
 3.9-4.5 (1H, nd);
 4.6-5.1 (2H, multiplet);
 6.7-7.4 (4H, nd).

EXAMPLE 245-[4-(7-t-Butyl-6-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-yl-methoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

In a similar manner to Example 22, a mixture of 291
5 mg of ethyl 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-7-t-butyl-2-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionate (prepared as described in Preparation 49), 64 mg of thiourea and 1 ml of sulpholane was heated. 5 ml of ethylene glycol monomethyl ether, 1 ml of concentrated
10 hydrochloric acid and 2 ml of water were added, and the resulting mixture was further heated under reflux for 6 hours. Ethyl acetate was then added to the reaction mixture, and the resulting solution was washed with water and dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate. The
15 ethyl acetate was removed by evaporation under reduced pressure, and the resulting residue was subjected to silica gel column chromatography, eluted with a 5:1 by volume mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate, to give 143 mg of the desired 5-[4-(7-t-butyl-6-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione.
20

Softening point: 95-107°C.

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (hexadeuterated acetone) δ ppm:

- 1.40 (9H, singlet);
- 1.48 (3H, singlet);
- 5 2.65 (1H, doublet, $J=16.5\text{Hz}$);
- 3.05 (1H, doublet, $J=16.5\text{Hz}$);
- 3.08 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=9$ & 14Hz);
- 3.42 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=4.5$ & 14Hz);
- 4.14 (2H, singlet);
- 10 4.74 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=4.5$ & 9Hz);
- 6.83 (1H, singlet);
- 6.92 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
- 7.23 (1H, singlet);
- 7.24 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
- 15 7.50-9.40 (1H, broad, D).

EXAMPLE 25

5-[4-(6-Acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-4-oxochroman-2-yl-methoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one

A mixture of 2.0 g of ethyl 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionate (prepared as described in Preparation 45), 0.62 g of thiourea, and 3.1 g of sulpholane was heated at $120-125^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 7 hours under a nitrogen stream. The reaction mixture was extracted with benzene and then the

benzene was distilled off from the extract. Water was then added to the residue and the oily layer was separated. The oily layer was subjected to silica gel column chromatography [successively with an eluent of
5 (1) a 2:1 by volume mixture of n-hexane and ethyl acetate, (2) ethyl acetate, and (3) a 1:1 by volume mixture of ethyl acetate and ethanol] to yield
5-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-4-oxochroman-2-yl-methoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one in a yield of
10 0.74 g. This was further purified by recrystallization from ethyl acetate, to give the purified title compound melting at was 218-222°C.

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (hexadeuterated dimethyl sulphoxide + D₂O) δ ppm:

15 1.43 (3H, singlet);
2.04 (6H, singlet);
2.32 (3H, singlet);
2.35 (3H, singlet);
2.4-3.5 (4H, nd);
20 4.13 (2H, singlet);
4.56 (1H, doublet of doublets, J=4 & 9Hz);
6.85 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz);
7.14 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz).

TEST EXAMPLE 1Effect on hyperlipidaemia

The test animals were 8 weeks old male mice. These animals were fasted for 18 hours, after which 75 mg/kg of alloxan was injected into the tail vein of each animal. Each of the test compounds was administered orally at a dose of 100 mg/kg body weight 30 minutes before and 24 and 30 hours after administration of the alloxan. Blood was collected from an incision in the cervical region 48 hours after administration of the alloxan. The amount collected was 100 or 200 µl. The blood was diluted 10 or 20 times with a physiological saline solution and centrifuged (3,000 rpm, 10 minutes) to determine the lipid content.

Lipid peroxide was determined as TBA (thiobarbituric acid) - reacting substance according to Yagi's method [K. Yagi: Biochem. Med., 15, 212-216 (1976)]. Measurements of cholesterol and triglyceride were made according to the enzyme method. A Determiner TC (a registered trade mark of Kyowa Medix) kit was used for the measurement of cholesterol and Triglyceride

Measuring Agent (GPO-p-chlorophenol color developing method) (Wako Jyunyaku) kit was used for triglyceride.

As a control, the procedure was repeated, except that no test compound was administered.

5 The test compounds were as follows:

Compound A:

5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)-benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione (a compound of the invention);

10 Compound B:

5-[4-(1-methylcyclohexylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione (a prior art compound).

The results are shown in the following Table:

TABLE 1

agent	No. of animals	lipid peroxide (nmol/ml)	triglyceride (mg/dl)	cholesterol (mg/dl)
Control	10	36.8 \pm 6.9	636 \pm 128	81.3 \pm 4.7
Compound A	10	16.8 \pm 1.5 (P<0.02)	270 \pm 33 (P<0.02)	59.6 \pm 1.4 (P<0.01)
Compound B	10	29.9 \pm 5.2 (NS)	586 \pm 127 (NS)	72.5 \pm 5.6 (NS)

NS = not significant.

As shown in Table 1, Compound A of this invention significantly inhibited lipid peroxide, triglyceride and cholesterol, but the comparative compound did not exhibit such an inhibitory action.

TEST EXAMPLE 2Effect On Blood Sugar

The test animals employed were male mice of the C₅₇BL/6J-Ob/Ob strain aged about 4 months. The animals were employed in groups of 4 for each test.

Compound A and the same prior art Compound B as was used in Test Example 1 were mixed at a level of 0.2% by weight with a powder feed (MM-1, Funabashi Farm) and given freely to the mice for 2 weeks, during which time
5 water was also freely available. At the end of the experiment, blood was collected from a vein in the tail and the blood sugar level was determined by the glucose oxidase method. A control group was treated similarly, except that the active compounds were omitted.

10 With the blood sugar level of the control set arbitrarily at 100, the blood sugar level of Compound A was 57 and that of Compound B was 56, indicating an excellent ability to reduce blood sugar levels.

PREPARATION 1

15 6-(Methoxymethoxy)-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethanol

16.1 g of 6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-
chroman-2-ylmethanol were dissolved in 70 ml of dry
dimethylformamide. 3.0 g of a 50% w/w suspension of
sodium hydride in oil (which had been washed with
20 cyclohexane 3 times) were added gradually to the
resulting solution at 5-10°C, with stirring and under a
nitrogen stream. The mixture was reacted for 1 hour at
room temperature, and then the solution was ice-cooled

to 3-5°C, and 5.5 g of chloromethyl methyl ether dissolved in 40 ml of dry benzene were added dropwise. After the whole of this had been added, the solution was reacted for 1 hour at room temperature. The reaction
5 mixture was then poured into ice-water and extracted with cyclohexane. The extract was washed four times with a 5% w/v aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide, and then with water. It was then dried and the solvent was distilled off under reduced pressure, giving the desired
10 6-(methoxymethoxy)-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethanol. On thin layer chromatography, the R_f value was 0.45 [silica gel; developing solvent: benzene: ethyl acetate = 4:1 by volume].

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (CDCl₃) δ ppm:

- 15 1.21 (3H, singlet);
1.6-2.0 (3H, multiplet);
2.07 (3H, singlet);
2.15 (3H, singlet);
2.19 (3H, singlet);
20 2.6 (2H, broad triplet, J=9Hz);
3.60 (3H, singlet);
3.63 (2H, singlet);
4.85 (2H, singlet).

PREPARATION 26-(Methoxymethoxy)-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-2-(4-nitrophenoxy-methyl)chroman

6 g of a 50% w/w suspension of sodium hydride in oil
5 were placed in a reaction container and washed with
cyclohexane. 100 ml of dry dimethyl sulphoxide and then
19.0 g of 6-(methoxymethoxy)-2,5,7,8-tetra-
methylchroman-2-ylmethanol dissolved in 20 ml of dry
benzene were added, and the mixture was reacted for 20
10 minutes under a nitrogen stream at 60°C. Small portions
of p-chloronitrobenzene (totalling 21.6 g) were added to
this solution whilst cooling with water to 30°C, and
then the reaction was continued for 1 hour at 60°C. The
reaction mixture was then poured into ice-water and
15 extracted with ethyl acetate. The extract was washed
with water, and dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate.
The solvent was distilled off, leaving a reddish brown
crude oil. This oil was subjected to silica gel column
chromatography, eluted first with a 1:1 by volume
20 mixture of benzene and cyclohexane and then with benzene
alone. A light yellowish oil, the desired
6-(methoxymethoxy)-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-2-(4-nitrophenoxy-
methyl)chroman, was obtained from the portion eluted
with benzene. Rf value on thin layer chromatography:
25 0.12 [silica gel; developing solvent:benzene].

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (CDCl_3) δ ppm:

- 1.41 (3H, singlet);
about 2 (2H, multiplet);
2.05 (3H, singlet);
5 2.14 (3H, singlet);
2.18 (3H, singlet);
2.6 (2H, broad triplet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
3.60 (3H, singlet);
3.95 and 4.09 (2H, AB type, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
10 4.86 (2H, singlet);
6.96 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
8.19 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$).

PREPARATION 3

6-Hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-2-(4-nitrophenoxyethyl)-
15 chroman

32.8 g of 6-(methoxymethoxy)-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-2-(4-nitrophenoxyethyl)chroman were dissolved in 300 ml of acetic acid containing 5.3 g of a 10% w/w aqueous solution of sulphuric acid, and the mixture was heated
20 for 10 minutes at 60°C . The reaction mixture was cooled and then poured into a mixture of 420 g of sodium bicarbonate and 1 kg of ice and extracted with ethyl

acetate. The extract was washed with water and dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate. The solvent was distilled off from the extract, leaving a light yellowish powder, the desired 6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-2-(4-nitrophenoxyethyl)chroman, melting at 114-116°C.

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (CDCl_3) δ ppm:

- 1.41 (3H, singlet);
- about 2 (2H, multiplet);
- 10 2.06 (3H, singlet);
- 2.10 (3H, singlet);
- 2.15 (3H, singlet);
- 2.6 (2H, broad triplet, $J=6\text{Hz}$);
- 4.05 (2H, AB Type, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
- 15 4.25 (1H, broad singlet);
- 6.96 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
- 8.16 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$).

PREPARATION 4

6-Acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-2-(4-nitrophenoxyethyl)-
20 chroman

20.4 g of 6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-2-(4-nitrophenoxyethyl)chroman were dissolved in 60 ml of pyridine, and, while stirring, 30 ml of acetic anhydride

were added dropwise at 10°C. The mixture was gradually restored to room temperature and then reacted for 1 hour at 30°C. The reaction mixture was cooled and then poured into ice-water and extracted with a 1:1 by volume mixture of benzene and cyclohexane. The extract was washed well with a 2% w/v aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid and then with water, after which it was dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate. The solvent was removed by evaporation under reduced pressure, giving the desired 6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-2-(4-nitrophenoxy)methyl)chroman. Rf value on thin layer chromatography: 0.64 [silica gel; developing solvent; benzene and ethyl acetate = 10:1 by volume]

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (CDCl₃) δ ppm:

- 15 1.41 (3H, singlet);
1.98 (3H, singlet);
about 2 (2H, multiplet);
2.02 (3H, singlet);
2.05 (3H, singlet);
20 2.31 (3H, singlet);
2.6 (2H, broad triplet, J=6Hz);
3.98 and 4.10 (2H, AB Type, J=9Hz);
6.97 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz);
8.20 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz).

PREPARATION 56-Acetoxy-2-(4-aminophenoxymethyl)-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-
chroman

24.3 g of 6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-2-(4-
5 nitrophenoxyethyl)chroman were dissolved in a mixture
of 200 ml of methanol and 20 ml of benzene and reacted
for 3 hours under a hydrogen pressure of 45-55 lb/sq.
inch (3.1-3.8 bars), using Pearl's hydrogen adding
apparatus, in the presence of 7 g of 10% w/w
10 palladium-on-carbon. The palladium-on-carbon was
removed by filtration from the reaction mixture and
washed with a mixture of 600 ml of acetone and 60 ml of
concentrated hydrochloric acid. The filtrate and the
washings were combined and the mixture was neutralized
15 with sodium bicarbonate. The solvent was then distilled
off, and the crude crystals obtained were dissolved in
ethyl acetate. The ethyl acetate solution was washed
with water and dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate.
The ethyl acetate was then distilled from the extract,
20 and the crude substance obtained was washed with a 1:1
by volume mixture of benzene and cyclohexane, giving the
desired 6-acetoxy-2-(4-aminophenoxymethyl)-2,5,7,8-
tetramethylchroman, melting at 138-140°C.

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (CDCl_3) δ ppm:

- 1.42 (3H, singlet);
about 2 (2H, multiplet);
2.00 (3H, singlet);
2.04 (3H, singlet);
5 2.10 (3H, singlet);
2.31 (3H, singlet);
2.6 (2H, broad triplet, J=6Hz);
3.37 (2H, broad singlet);
3.80 and 3.95 (2H, AB Type, J=9Hz);
10 6.62 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz);
6.78 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz).

PREPARATION 6

Ethyl 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-yl-methoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionate

- 15 17.5 g of 6-acetoxy-2-(4-aminophenoxyethyl)-
2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman were dissolved in a mixture
of 130 ml of acetone and 30 ml of water, and 13 ml of
concentrated hydrochloric acid, followed by 4.3 g of
sodium nitrite dissolved in 8.5 ml of water, were added
20 dropwise, with ice-cooling, to the product. 37.3 ml of
ethyl acrylate were added dropwise, and then 680 mg of
cuprous oxide were added gradually to the product,
whilst keeping its temperature at 40-43°C. Generation
of nitrogen terminated after about 30 minutes. Benzene

was then added to the reaction mixture (which consisted of 2 layers) to extract the organic layer. The benzene extract was washed with a saturated aqueous solution of sodium chloride and dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate. The solvent was then distilled off from the extract. The dark brownish oil thus obtained was subjected to silica gel column chromatography, eluted with a 1:1 by volume mixture of benzene and cyclohexane and then the proportion of benzene was progressively increased until it was eluted with benzene alone. Ethyl 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)-phenyl]-2-chloropropionate was obtained from the fractions eluted with a 2:1 by volume mixture of benzene and cyclohexane and with benzene alone. Rf value on thin layer chromatography: 0.39 [silica gel; developing solvent: benzene: ethyl acetate = 20:1 by volume].

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (CDCl_3) δ ppm:

- 1.23 (3H, triplet, $J=7.5\text{Hz}$);
- 1.42 (3H, singlet);
- 20 1.98 (3H, singlet);
- about 2 (2H, multiplet);
- 2.04 (3H, singlet);
- 2.09 (3H, singlet);
- 2.31 (3H, singlet);
- 25 2.6 (2H, broad triplet, $J=6\text{Hz}$);
- 3.05 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 7.5Hz);

3.31 (1H, doublet of doublets, J=15 & 7.5 Hz);

3.83 and 3.99 (2H, AB Type, J=9Hz);

4.18 (2H, quartet, J=7.5Hz);

4.38 (1H, triplet, J=7.5Hz);

5 6.85 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz);

7.14 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz).

PREPARATION 7

3-[4-(6-Acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)-phenyl]-2-chloropropionic acid

10 0.16 g of ethyl 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionate was dissolved in a mixture of 1.5 ml of 99.5% ethanol and 0.2 ml of tetrahydrofuran. 265 mg of a 9.55% w/w aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide were added dropwise, under
15 a nitrogen stream at 0 - 4°C, to the resulting mixture. The mixture was then reacted for a further 20 hours at 0 - 5°C, after which it was neutralized, whilst ice-cooling, by adding 0.68 g of a 10% w/w aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid. The solvent was then
20 distilled off under reduced pressure. The separated light reddish oil was further extracted with chloroform, and the chloroform extract was washed with water and dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate. The crude product obtained by distilling off the chloroform under reduced

pressure was subjected to column chromatography through silica gel and the desired 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionic acid was obtained from the fractions eluted with a 20:1 by volume mixture of benzene and 99.5% ethanol. Rf value on thin layer chromatography: 0.6 (tailing) [silica gel; developing solvent; benzene:99.5% ethanol = 4:1 by volume].

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (CDCl_3) δ ppm:

- 10 1.42 (3H, singlet);
1.98 (3H, singlet);
about 2 (2H, multiplet);
2.03 (3H, singlet);
2.09 (3H, singlet);
15 2.32 (3H, singlet);
2.6 (2H, broad triplet, $J=6\text{Hz}$);
3.2 (2H, multiplet);
3.85 and 4.00 (2H, AB Type, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
4.4 (1H, multiplet);
20 6.86 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
about 7 (1H, broad singlet);
7.15 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$).

PREPARATION 82-Chloro-3-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]propionic acid

0.48 g of ethyl 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetra-
5 methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionate was
dissolved in a mixture of 5 ml of 99.5% ethanol and 2 ml
of tetrahydrofuran. To this was added dropwise, under a
nitrogen stream at 8 - 10°C, a solution prepared by
dissolving 133 mg of sodium hydroxide in 1 ml of 99.5%
10 ethanol. When the whole of the solution had been added,
the mixture was reacted for a further 18 hours at
0 - 5°C, after which it was neutralized by adding to it
dropwise a solution prepared by dissolving 0.37 g of
concentrated hydrochloric acid in 1 ml of 99.5% ethanol.
15 The solvent was then distilled off from the mixture
under reduced pressure. The pale reddish oil thus
separated was extracted with chloroform, and the
chloroform extract was washed with water and then dried
over anhydrous sodium sulphate. The crude product
20 obtained by distilling the chloroform off under reduced
pressure was subjected to silica gel column
chromatography, and the desired 2-chloro-3-[4-
(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-
propionic acid was obtained from the fractions eluted
25 with a 10:1 by volume mixture of benzene and ethyl

acetate. Rf value on thin layer chromatography: 0.4
(tailing) [silica gel; developing solvent; benzene:99.5%
ethanol=6:1 by volume]. Melting point 148-149°C.

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (CDCl_3) δ ppm:

- 5 1.40 (3H, singlet);
 about 2 (2H, multiplet);
 2.10 (6H, singlet);
 2.15 (3H, singlet);
 2.6 (2H, broad triplet, $J=6\text{Hz}$);
10 3.05 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 7.5Hz);
 3.30 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 7.5Hz);
 3.83 and 3.98 (2H, AB type, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
 4.40 (1H, triplet, $J=7.5\text{Hz}$);
 about 6 (2H, broad singlet);
15 6.85 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
 7.14 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$).

PREPARATION 9

Ethyl 2-chloro-3-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-
chroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]propionate

- 20 0.48 g of ethyl 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-
chroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionate was
dissolved in a mixture of 3 ml of absolute ethanol and 2
ml of dry tetrahydrofuran. An ethanolic solution of

sodium ethoxide (prepared by dissolving 49.0 mg sodium in 2 ml of absolute ethanol) was added dropwise, under a nitrogen stream at 10-13°C, to the resulting solution. The mixture was then reacted for 21 hours at 0 - 5°C, after which 0.22 g of concentrated hydrochloric acid dissolved in 99.5% ethanol was added dropwise, with ice-cooling. The solvent was then distilled off from the reaction mixture under reduced pressure; the separated light reddish oil was extracted with chloroform; and the extract was washed with water and then dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate. The crude product obtained by distilling the chloroform off from the extract under reduced pressure was subjected to silica gel column chromatography, and the desired ethyl 2-chloro-3-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]propionate was obtained from the fractions eluted with benzene. Rf value on thin layer chromatography: 0.60 [silica gel; developing solvent; benzene : ethyl acetate = 10:1 by volume].

20 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (CDCl_3) δ ppm:

- 1.23 (3H, triplet, $J=7.5\text{Hz}$);
- 1.40 (3H, singlet);
- about 2 (2H, multiplet);
- 2.10 (6H, singlet);
- 25 2.15 (3H, singlet);
- 2.6 (2H, broad triplet, $J=6\text{Hz}$);

- 3.05 (1H, doublet of doublets, J=15 & 7.5Hz);
3.30 (1H, doublet of doublets, J=15 & 7.5Hz);
3.83 and 3.95 (2H, AB Type, J=9Hz);
4.16 (2H, quartet, J=7.5Hz);
5 4.18 (1H, singlet);
4.36 (1H, triplet, J=7.5Hz);
6.85 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz).
7.13 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz).

In the following Preparations 10-38, only those parts
10 of the signals of the nuclear magnetic resonance spectra
which are relevant to the compounds prepared are
reported.

PREPARATIONS 10-16

The procedure described in Preparation 3 was repeated,
15 but using the appropriate chroman starting material, to
prepare the following compounds:

Preparation 10

6-hydroxy-5,7,8-trimethyl-2-(4-nitrophenoxyethyl)chroman.

Melting at: 167.5-169°C.

20 Mass spectrum (m/e): 343 (M^+).

Rf value: 0.60 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel, developing solvent: 9:1 by volume mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (CDCl_3) δ ppm:

- 5 4.23 (1H, singlet, D);
 7.05 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
 8.23 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$).

Preparation 11

6-hydroxy-2,7-dimethyl-2-(4-nitrophenoxy)methylchroman.

- 10 Rf value: 0.45 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel, developing solvent: 10:1 by volume mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 329 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (CDCl_3) δ ppm:

- 15 4.03 (1H, singlet, D);
 6.95 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
 8.20 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$).

Preparation 12

7-t-butyl-6-hydroxy-2-methyl-2-[2-(4-nitrophenoxy)ethyl]-

chroman.

Rf value: 0.71 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel,
developing solvent: 5:1 by volume mixture of benzene and
ethyl acetate).

5 Mass spectrum (m/e): 385 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

4.34 (1H, singlet, D);

6.97 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);

8.21 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$).

10 Preparation 13

6-hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxy-2,5-dimethyl-2-[2-(4-nitro-
phenoxy)ethyl]chroman.

Melting at: 119-121°C.

Mass spectrum (m/e): 403 (M^+).

15 Rf value: 0.49 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel,
developing solvent: 9:1 by volume mixture of benzene and
ethyl acetate).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

- 5.43 (1H, singlet, D);
6.99 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz);
8.23 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz).

Preparation 14

- 5 6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-2-[2-(4-nitrophenoxy)ethyl]-chroman.

Rf value: 0.33 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel, developing solvent, 10:1 by volume mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate).

- 10 Mass spectrum (m/e): 371 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

- 4.21 (1H, singlet, D);
6.95 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz);
8.20 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz).

15 Preparation 15

2-ethyl-6-hydroxy-5,7,8-trimethyl-2-(4-nitrophenoxy-methyl)chroman.

Rf value: 0.42 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel, developing solvent: 20:1 by volume mixture of benzene

and ethyl acetate).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 371 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

- 4.20 (1H, singlet, D);
- 5 6.98 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
- 8.18 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$).

Preparation 16

6-hydroxy-2-isobutyl-5,7,8-trimethyl-2-(4-nitrophenoxy-methyl)chroman.

- 10 Rf value: 0.42 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel, developing solvent: 20:1 by volume mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 399 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

- 15 4.22 (1H, singlet, D);
- 6.98 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
- 8.18 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$).

PREPARATIONS 17-23

Using the corresponding 6-hydroxy compounds prepared as described in Preparations 10-16 above, the procedure of Preparation 4 was repeated, to give the following
5 6-acetoxy compounds:

Preparation 17

6-acetoxy-5,7,8-trimethyl-2-(4-nitrophenoxyethyl)chroman.

Melting at: 132-134°C.

Rf value: 0.66 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel,
10 developing solvent: 9:1 by volume mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 385 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

2.31 (3H, singlet);
15 7.05 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
8.23 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$).

Preparation 18

6-acetoxy-2,7-dimethyl-2-(4-nitrophenoxyethyl)chroman.

Rf value: 0.45 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel, developing solvent: 20:1 by volume mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 371 (M^+).

5 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

- 2.23 (3H, singlet);
- 6.95 (2H, doublet, $J=9Hz$);
- 8.20 (2H, doublet, $J=9Hz$).

Preparation 19

10 6-acetoxy-7-t-butyl-2-methyl-2-[2-(4-nitrophenoxy)ethyl]-chroman.

Rf value: 0.21 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel, developing solvent: 50:1 by volume mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate).

15 Mass spectrum (m/e): 427 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

- 2.29 (3H, singlet);
- 6.95 (2H, doublet, $J=9Hz$);
- 8.21 (2H, doublet, $J=9Hz$).

Preparation 20

6-acetoxy-7,8-dimethoxy-2,5-dimethyl-2-[2-(4-nitro-
phenoxy)ethyl]chroman.

Rf value: 0.45 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel,
5 developing solvent: 9:1 by volume mixture of benzene and
ethyl acetate).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 445 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

2.33 (3H, singlet);
10 6.99 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
8.23 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$).

Preparation 21

6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-2-[2-(4-nitrophenoxy)ethyl]-
chroman.

15 Rf value: 0.38 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel,
developing solvent: 10:1 by volume mixture of benzene
and ethyl acetate).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 413 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (CDCl_3) δ ppm:

- 2.31 (3H, singlet);
- 6.95 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
- 8.20 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$).

5 Preparation 22

6-acetoxy-2-ethyl-5,7,8-trimethyl-2-(4-nitrophenoxy-methyl)chroman.

Rf value: 0.44 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel,
developing solvent: 4:1 by volume mixture of cyclohexane
10 and ethyl acetate).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 413 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (CDCl_3) δ ppm:

- 2.31 (3H, singlet);
- 6.98 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
- 15 8.20 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$).

Preparation 23

6-acetoxy-2-isobutyl-5,7,8-trimethyl-2-(4-nitrophenoxy-methyl)chroman.

Rf value: 0.41 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel,

developing solvent: 4:1 by volume mixture of cyclohexane and ethyl acetate).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 441 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

- 5 2.32 (3H, singlet);
 6.98 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
 8.17 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$).

PREPARATIONS 24-30

- Following the procedure described in Preparation 5,
10 but using the appropriate nitrophenoxy compounds
prepared as described in Preparations 17-23, the
following compounds were prepared:

Preparation 24

6-acetoxy-2-(4-aminophoxymethyl)-5,7,8-trimethylchroman.

- 15 Melting at 162.5-164.5°C.

Rf value: 0.11 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel,
developing solvent: 9:1 by volume mixture of benzene and
ethyl acetate).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 355 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

3.37 (2H, singlet, D);

6.65 (2H, doublet, $J=9Hz$);

5 6.85 (2H, doublet, $J=9Hz$).

Preparation 25

6-acetoxy-2-(4-aminophenoxymethyl)-2,7-dimethylchroman.

Rf value: 0.52 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel,

developing solvent: 1:1 by volume mixture of benzene and
10 ethyl acetate).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 341 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

3.30 (2H, singlet, D);

6.60 (2H, doublet, $J=9Hz$);

15 6.76 (2H, doublet, $J=9Hz$).

Preparation 26

6-acetoxy-2-[2-(4-aminophenoxy)ethyl]-7-t-butyl-2-methyl-
chroman.

Rf value: 0.15 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel, developing solvent: 5:1 by volume mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 397 (M^+).

5 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

2.97-3.53 (2H, broad singlet, D);

6.63 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);

6.77 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$).

Preparation 27

10 6-acetoxy-2-[2-(4-aminophenoxy)ethyl]-7,8-dimethoxy-2,5-dimethylchroman.

Rf value: 0.43 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel, developing solvent: 1:1 by volume mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate).

15 Mass spectrum (m/e): 415 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

3.23 (2H, broad singlet, D);

6.61 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);

6.77 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$).

Preparation 28

6-acetoxy-2-[2-(4-aminophenoxy)ethyl]-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-chroman.

Rf value: 0.14 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel,
5 developing solvent: 10:1 by volume mixture of benzene
and ethyl acetate).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 383 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

3.28 (2H, singlet, D);
10 6.61 (2H, doublet, $J=9Hz$);
6.75 (2H, doublet, $J=9Hz$).

Preparation 29

6-acetoxy-2-(4-aminophenoxyethyl)-2-ethyl-5,7,8-trimethylchroman.

15 Melting at: 123-124°C.

Rf value: 0.09 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel,
developing solvent: 5:1 by volume mixture of cyclohexane
and ethyl acetate).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 383 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

2.8-3.5 (2H, broad singlet, D);

6.59 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);

5 6.76 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$).

Preparation 30

6-acetoxy-2-(4-aminophenoxymethyl)-2-isobutyl-5,7,8-trimethylchroman.

Melting at: 137-138°C.

10 Rf value: 0.11 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel, developing solvent: 4:1 by volume mixture of cyclohexane and ethyl acetate).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 411 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

15 2.7-3.4 (2H, broad singlet, D);

6.61 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);

6.77 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$).

PREPARATIONS 31-38

Following the procedure described in Preparation 6,
but using the appropriate starting materials prepared as
described in Preparations 24-30 and 41, the following
5 compounds were prepared:

Preparation 31

ethyl 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-yl-
methoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionate.

Rf value: 0.70 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel,
10 developing solvent: 9:1 by volume mixture of benzene and
ethyl acetate).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 474 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

2.7 (2H, doublet of doublets, $J=10$ & 5 Hz);
15 3.13 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 7.5 Hz);
3.30 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 7.5 Hz);
4.05-4.46 (6H, multiplet).

Preparation 32

ethyl 2-chloro-3-[4-[2-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-

chroman-2-yl)ethoxy]phenyl}propionate.

Rf value: 0.42 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel,
developing solvent: 20:1 by volume mixture of benzene
and ethyl acetate).

5 Mass spectrum (m/e): 460 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

2.6 (2H, broad triplet, $J=6Hz$);

3.11 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & $7.5Hz$);

3.27 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & $7.5Hz$);

10 4.05-4.5 (6H, multiplet).

Preparation 33

ethyl 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,7-dimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)-
phenyl]-2-chloropropionate.

15 Rf value: 0.45 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel,
developing solvent: 20:1 by volume mixture of benzene
and ethyl acetate).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 460 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

2.7 (2H, broad triplet, $J=6Hz$);

- 3.12 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 7.5Hz);
3.27 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 7.5Hz);
3.8-4.45 (5H, multiplet).

Preparation 34

- 5 ethyl 3-{4-[2-(6-acetoxy-7-*t*-butyl-2-methylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]phenyl}-2-chloropropionate.

R_f value: 0.53 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel, developing solvent: 10:1 by volume mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate).

- 10 Mass spectrum (m/e): 516 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

- 2.7 (2H, broad triplet, $J=6$ Hz);
3.11 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 7.5Hz);
3.27 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 7.5Hz);
15 4.03-4.50 (5H, multiplet).

Preparation 35

ethyl 3-{4-[2-(6-acetoxy-7,8-dimethoxy-2,5-dimethylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]phenyl}-2-chloropropionate.

R_f value: 0.45 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel,

developing solvent: 9:1 by volume mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 534 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

- 5 2.6 (2H, broad triplet, $J=6\text{Hz}$);
 3.10 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 7.5Hz);
 3.27 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 7.5Hz);
 4.07-4.46 (5H, multiplet).

Preparation 36

- 10 ethyl 3-[4-[2-(6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]phenyl]-2-chloropropionate.

Rf value: 0.39 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel, developing solvent: 20:1 by volume mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate).

- 15 Mass spectrum (m/e): 502 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

- 2.6 (2H, broad triplet, $J=6\text{Hz}$);
 3.06 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 7.5Hz);
 3.32 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 7.5Hz);
20 4.05-4.45 (5H, multiplet).

Preparation 37

ethyl 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-2-ethyl-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-
2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionate.

Rf value: 0.33 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel,
5 developing solvent: 100:1 by volume mixture of benzene
and ethyl acetate).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 502 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

2.6 (2H, broad triplet, $J=6\text{Hz}$);
10 3.05 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 7.5Hz);
3.30 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 7.5Hz);
3.90-4.45 (5H, multiplet).

Preparation 38

ethyl 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-2-isobutyl-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-
15 2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionate.

Rf value: 0.44 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel,
developing solvent: 100:1 by volume mixture of benzene
and ethyl acetate).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 530 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (CDCl_3) δ ppm:

- 2.6 (2H, broad triplet, $J=7\text{Hz}$);
- 3.05 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 7.5Hz);
- 3.30 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=15$ & 7.5Hz);
- 5 3.90-4.45 (5H, multiplet).

PREPARATION 39

2-(6-Benzoyloxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-yl)ethanol

Following the procedure described in Preparation 1, 2-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-yl)ethanol was
10 reacted with benzyl bromide and treated and purified to give the title compound.

Rf value: 0.31 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel, developing solvent: 10:1 by volume mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate).

15 Mass spectrum (m/e): 340 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($\text{CDCl}_3 + \text{D}_2\text{O}$) δ ppm:

- 1.31 (3H, singlet);
- 1.67-2.37 (4H, multiplet);
- 20 2.10 (3H, singlet);
- 2.17 (3H, singlet);

2.23 (3H, singlet);
2.65 (2H, broad triplet, J=6Hz);
3.90 (2H, triplet, J=6Hz);
4.72 (2H, singlet);
5 7.3-7.65 (5H, multiplet).

PREPARATION 40

6-Benzyloxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-2-[2-(4-nitrophenoxy)-ethyl]chroman

2-(6-Benzyloxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-yl)ethanol
10 (prepared as described in Preparation 39) was reacted
with p-chloronitrobenzene and the reaction mixture was
treated and purified as described in Preparation 2, to
give the title compound.

Rf value: 0.43 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel,
15 developing solvent: benzene).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 461 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

1.37 (3H, singlet);
1.90 (2H, triplet, J=6Hz);
20 2.11 (3H, singlet);
2.18 (3H, singlet);

- 2.24 (3H, singlet);
2.0-2.3 (2H, nd);
2.66 (2H, triplet, J=6Hz);
4.32 (2H, triplet, J=6Hz);
5 4.73 (2H, singlet);
6.94 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz);
7.3-7.65 (5H, multiplet);
8.20 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz).

PREPARATION 41

10 2-[2-(4-Aminophenoxy)ethyl]-6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetra-
methylchroman

6-Benzoyloxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-2-[2-(4-nitrophenoxy)-
ethyl]chroman (prepared as described in Preparation 40)
was catalytically reduced and then the reaction mixture
15 was processed as described in Preparation 5. The
resulting crude product was purified by silica gel
column chromatography and the title compound was
obtained from the fractions eluted with a 4:1 by volume
mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate.

20 Rf value: 0.36 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel,
developing solvent: 3:2 by volume mixture of benzene and
ethyl acetate).

Mass spectrum (m/e): 341 (M^+).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum ($CDCl_3$) δ ppm:

- 1.32 (3H, singlet);
- 1.87 (2H, triplet, $J=6\text{Hz}$);
- 5 2.10 (6H, singlet);
- 2.15 (3H, singlet);
- 2.0-2.3 (nd);
- 2.64 (2H, broad triplet, $J=6\text{Hz}$);
- 3.2-4.1 (2H, broad singlet);
- 10 4.12 (3H, triplet, $J=6\text{Hz}$);
- 6.60 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
- 6.75 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$).

PREPARATION 42

15 6-Hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-2-(4-nitrophenoxyethyl)-
chroman-4-one

A mixture of 3.9 g of 2,5-dihydroxy-3,4,6-trimethyl-acetophenone, 3.9 g of 4-nitrophenoxyacetone, 2.0 g of pyrrolidine and 15 g of toluene was left standing at room temperature for 2 days. Dilute hydrochloric acid
20 was then added to the reaction mixture and the mixture was extracted with diethyl ether. The remaining aqueous layer was again extracted with ethyl acetate and the ethyl acetate extract was added to the ethereal

extract. The resulting mixture was dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate. The solvent was distilled off from the mixture. Hexane was added to the resulting residue, and the crystals thus precipitated were collected by
5 filtration. The crystals were subjected to silica gel column chromatography, eluted with a 5:1 by volume mixture of hexane and ethyl acetate, and then recrystallized from ethyl acetate, to yield 6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-2-(4-nitrophenoxy)methylchroman-4-one.
10 Its melting point was 199-204°C.

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (hexadeuterated dimethyl sulphoxide) δ ppm:

1.43 (3H, singlet);
2.01 (3H, singlet);
15 2.14 (3H, singlet);
2.46 (3H, singlet);
2.67 (1H, doublet, $J=16\text{Hz}$);
3.03 (1H, doublet, $J=16\text{Hz}$);
4.31 (2H, singlet);
20 7.19 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
7.92 (1H, singlet);
8.21 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$).

PREPARATION 436-Acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-2-(4-nitrophenoxyethyl)-
chroman-4-one

A mixture of 17.7 g of 5-acetoxy-2-hydroxy-3,4,6-
5 trimethylacetophenone, 14.6 g of 4-nitrophenoxyacetone,
7.5 g of pyrrolidine and 60 ml of benzene was left
standing at room temperature for one day, and then the
mixture was refluxed for 7 hours using a water
separator. At the end of this time, water and ethyl
10 acetate were added to the reaction mixture and the
organic layer was separated. It was then dried over
anhydrous sodium sulphate. The solvent was distilled
off and the resulting residue was subjected to silica
gel column chromatography, eluted with a 2:1 by volume
15 mixture of hexane and ethyl acetate, to yield 6-acetoxy-
2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-2-(4-nitrophenoxyethyl)chroman-4-one.

Rf value: 0.17 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel,
developing solvent: hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1 by
volume).

20 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (CDCl_3) δ ppm:

1.56 (3H, singlet);
2.10 (6H, singlet);
2.36 (3H, singlet);

2.43 (3H, singlet);
2.70 (1H, doublet, J=15Hz);
3.06 (1H, doublet, J=15Hz);
4.11 (1H, doublet, J=10Hz);
5 4.24 (1H, doublet, J=10Hz);
6.98 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz);
8.20 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz).

PREPARATION 44

10 6-Acetoxy-2-(4-aminophenoxymethyl)-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-
chroman-4-one

Hydrogen gas was passed for 2 hours through a mixture of 3.6 g of 6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-2-(4-nitrophenoxy-methyl)chroman-4-one, 1 g of 10% w/w palladium-on-carbon and 100 ml of methanol at room
15 temperature under atmospheric pressure. The catalyst was then removed by filtration and the filtrate was condensed by evaporation under reduced pressure. The residue was subjected to silica gel column chromatography, eluted with a 2:1 by volume mixture of
20 hexane and ethyl acetate, and the resulting crude product was recrystallized from acetone, to yield 6-acetoxy-2-(4-aminophenoxymethyl)-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-chroman-4-one. Its melting point was 177-178°C.

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (CDCl_3) δ ppm:

- 1.49 (3H, singlet);
2.09 (3H, singlet);
2.12 (3H, singlet);
5 2.33 (3H, singlet);
2.42 (3H, singlet);
2.65 (1H, doublet, $J=15\text{Hz}$);
3.07 (1H, doublet, $J=15\text{Hz}$);
3.2-3.6 (2H, broad singlet);
10 3.91 (1H, doublet, $J=10\text{Hz}$);
4.06 (1H, doublet, $J=10\text{Hz}$);
6.60 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
6.75 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$).

PREPARATION 45

- 15 Ethyl 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionate

3 ml of concentrated hydrochloric acid and then an aqueous solution of 700 mg of sodium nitrite in 1.1 ml of water were added dropwise to a mixture of 2.1 g of
20 6-acetoxy-2-(4-aminophenoxymethyl)-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-4-one and 26 ml of acetone, whilst cooling with ice. The mixture was stirred for 30 minutes at the same temperature. 7 g of ethyl acrylate were then added, after which cuprous oxide was added gradually, while

keeping the reaction temperature at 30-35°C. The reaction mixture was then stirred for 1 hour at room temperature. Water and benzene were added to the reaction mixture. The benzene layer was separated,
5 washed with water and dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate. Benzene was distilled off and the residue was subjected to silica gel column chromatography, eluted with a 3:1 by volume mixture of hexane and ethyl acetate, to yield ethyl 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-
10 tetramethyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloro-propionate.

Rf value: 0.21 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel, developing solvent: hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1 by volume).

15 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (CDCl_3) δ ppm:

- 1.24 (3H, triplet, $J=7\text{Hz}$);
- 1.51 (3H, singlet);
- 2.10 (3H, singlet);
- 2.12 (3H, singlet);
- 20 2.34 (3H, singlet);
- 2.43 (3H, singlet);
- 2.67 (1H, doublet, $J=15\text{Hz}$);
- 3.07 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=7.5$ & 15Hz);
- 3.10 (1H, doublet, $J=15\text{Hz}$);
- 25 3.32 (1H, doublet of doublets, $J=7.5$ & 15Hz);
- 4.06 (2H, singlet);

4.18 (2H, quart t, J=7Hz);
3.9-4.5 (1H, nd);
6.84 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz);
7.15 (2H, doublet, J=9Hz).

5

PREPARATION 46

7-t-Butyl-6-hydroxy-2-methyl-2-(4-nitrophenoxyethyl)-
chroman-4-one

--- In a similar manner to Preparation 42, a mixture of
2.0 g of 4-t-butyl-2,5-dihydroxyacetophenone, 1.9 g of
10 4-nitrophenoxyacetone, 1.0 g of pyrrolidine and 10 ml of
benzene was allowed to stand at room temperature for 2
days. To the reaction mixture was then added 10% w/w
hydrochloric acid, and the crude product was extracted
with ethyl acetate. The organic extract was dried over
15 anhydrous sodium sulphate, and the residue obtained by
removing the solvent was subjected to silica gel column
chromatography, eluted with a 10:1 by volume mixture of
benzene and ethyl acetate. The resulting crude crystals
were washed with cyclohexane to give the desired
20 7-t-butyl-6-hydroxy-2-methyl-2-(4-nitrophenoxyethyl)-
chroman-4-one.

Melting point: 205-209°C.

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (hexadeuterated acetone) δ ppm:

- 1.39 (3H, singlet);
1.53 (9H, singlet);
5 2.70 (1H, doublet, $J=16.5\text{Hz}$);
3.05 (1H, doublet, $J=16.5\text{Hz}$);
4.37 (2H, singlet);
6.80 (1H, singlet);
7.18 (2H, doublet, $J=10\text{Hz}$);
10 7.22 (1H, singlet);
8.22 (2H, doublet, $J=10\text{Hz}$);
8.31 (1H, singlet, D).

PREPARATION 47

15 6-Acetoxy-7-*t*-butyl-2-methyl-2-(4-nitrophenoxyethyl)-
chroman-4-one

A mixture of 1.7 g of 7-*t*-butyl-6-hydroxy-2-methyl-2-(4-nitrophenoxyethyl)chroman-4-one, 1 ml of acetic anhydride and 10 ml of pyridine was allowed to stand at room temperature for 1 day. The reaction mixture was
20 then poured into ice-water and stirred for 2 hours, and the crude substance was extracted with benzene. The organic solution was washed successively with 3N hydrochloric acid, water, a saturated aqueous solution of sodium bicarbonate and water, and dried over

anhydrous sodium sulphate. The solvent was evaporated off under reduced pressure, and the crude product thus obtained was recrystallized from a 10:1 by volume mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate, to give the
5 desired 6-acetoxy-7-t-butyl-2-methyl-2-(4-nitrophenoxy-methyl)chroman-4-one.

Melting point: 82-84°C.

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (hexadeuterated acetone) δ ppm:

- 10 1.33 (9H, singlet);
 1.57 (3H, singlet);
 2.33 (3H, singlet);
 2.82 (1H, doublet, $J=16.5\text{Hz}$);
 3.13 (1H, doublet, $J=16.5\text{Hz}$);
15 4.42 (2H, singlet);
 6.93 (1H, singlet);
 7.25 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
 7.44 (1H, singlet);
 8.22 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$).

PREPARATION 486-Acetoxy-2-(4-aminophenoxyethyl)-7-t-butyl-2-methyl-
chroman-4-one

In a similar manner to Preparation 44, 0.9 g of
5 6-acetoxy-7-t-butyl-2-methyl-2-(4-nitrophenoxyethyl)-
chroman-4-one was dissolved in 20 ml of acetic acid, and
catalytic hydrogenation was performed for 5.5 hours with
a hydrogen pressure of 45-55 lb/sq. inch (3.1-3.8 bars),
using Pearl's apparatus, in the presence of 0.4 g of 10%
10 w/w palladium-on-carbon. The palladium-on-carbon was
removed by filtration from the reaction mixture and
washed with acetic acid. The filtrate and the washings
were combined, and the mixture was poured into
ice-water, neutralized with sodium carbonate, and
15 extracted with benzene. The benzene extract was washed
with water and dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate.
The solvent was distilled off, and the residue was
subjected to silica gel column chromatography, eluted
with a 5:1 by volume mixture of benzene and ethyl
20 acetate, to give the desired 6-acetoxy-2-(4-
aminophenoxyethyl)-7-t-butyl-2-methylchroman-4-one.

Rf value: 0.24 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel,
developing solvent: benzene:ethyl acetat = 5:1 by
volume).

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (CDCl_3) δ ppm:

- 1.35 (9H, singlet);
1.52 (3H, singlet);
2.30 (3H, singlet);
5 2.67 (1H, doublet, $J=16.5\text{Hz}$);
3.07 (1H, doublet, $J=16.5\text{Hz}$);
3.20-3.60 (2H, broad, D);
3.92 (1H, doublet, $J=10.5\text{Hz}$);
4.07 (1H, doublet, $J=10.5\text{Hz}$);
10 6.58 (2H, doublet, $J=10\text{Hz}$);
6.75 (2H, doublet, $J=10\text{Hz}$);
6.98 (1H, singlet);
7.49 (1H, singlet).

PREPARATION 49

- 15 Ethyl 3-[4-(6-acetoxy-7-*t*-butyl-2-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-2-chloropropionate

In a similar manner to Preparation 45, to a mixture of 0.42 g of 6-acetoxy-2-(4-aminophenoxymethyl)-7-*t*-butyl-2-methylchroman-4-one and 5 ml of acetone were
20 added dropwise, whilst cooling with ice, 0.2 ml of concentrated hydrochloric acid and then a solution of 0.09 g of sodium nitrite in 0.5 ml of water. 1.1 g of ethyl acrylate were then added dropwise, after which 16 mg of cuprous oxide were added gradually to the mixture.

whilst keeping its temperature at 40-43°C. Evolution of nitrogen ceased after about 30 minutes. Benzene was added to the reaction mixture, and the organic layer was separated. The resulting benzene extract was washed
5 with water and dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate. The residue after evaporation of the benzene was subjected to silica gel column chromatography, eluted with a 20:1 by volume mixture of benzene and ethyl acetate, to give the desired ethyl 3-[4-(6-
10 acetoxy-7-t-butyl-2-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)-phenyl]-2-chloropropionate.

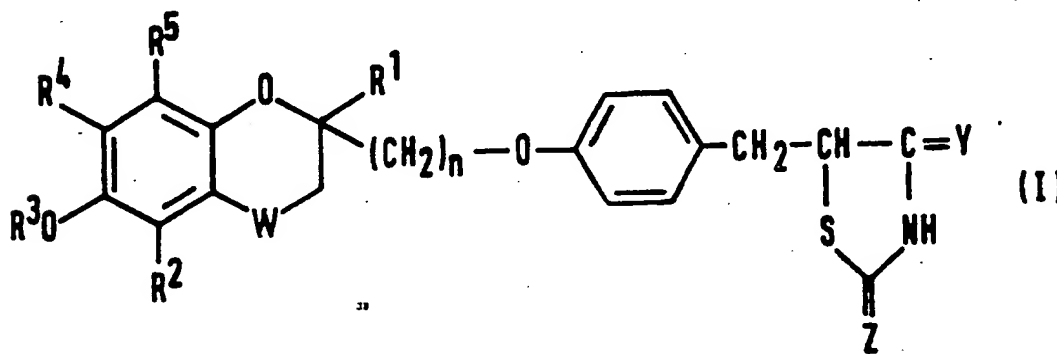
Rf value: 0.61 (thin layer chromatography, silica gel, developing solvent: benzene:ethyl acetate = 5:1 by volume).

15 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum (CDCl_3) δ ppm:

- 1.25 (3H, triplet, $J=7\text{Hz}$);
- 1.35 (9H, singlet);
- 1.55 (3H, singlet);
- 2.32 (3H, singlet);
- 20 2.70 (1H, doublet, $J=16.5\text{Hz}$);
- 2.95-3.50 (3H, multiplet);
- 3.90-4.50 (5H, multiplet);
- 6.87 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
- 7.00 (1H, singlet);
- 25 7.17 (2H, doublet, $J=9\text{Hz}$);
- 7.50 (1H, singlet).

CLAIMS

1. Compounds of formula (I):



[in which:

R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_5 alkyl group;
 R^3 represents a hydrogen atom, a C_1-C_6 aliphatic acyl group, an alicyclic acyl group, an aromatic acyl group, a heterocyclic acyl group, an araliphatic acyl group, a (C_1-C_6 alkoxy)carbonyl group or an aralkyloxycarbonyl group;

R^4 and R^5 are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, a C_1-C_5 alkyl group or a C_1-C_5 alkoxy group, or R^4 and R^5 together represent a C_1-C_4 alkylendioxy group;

n is 1, 2 or 3;

W represents the $-\text{CH}_2-$, $>\text{CO}$ or $>\text{CH}-\text{OR}^6$ group (in which R^6 represents any one of the atoms or groups defined for R^3 and may be the same as or different from R^3); and

Y and Z are the same or different and each represents an oxygen atom or an imino group]

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. Compounds as claimed in Claim 1, in which: R^3 represents a hydrogen atom, a C_1 - C_6 aliphatic acyl group, an aromatic acyl group or a heterocyclic acyl group.

3. Compounds as claimed in Claim 1, in which: Y represents an oxygen atom; R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_5 alkyl group; R^3 represents a hydrogen atom, a C_1 - C_6 aliphatic acyl group, an aromatic acyl group or a pyridinecarbonyl group; and R^4 and R^5 are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, a C_1 - C_5 alkyl group or a C_1 or C_2 alkoxy group.

4. Compounds as claimed in Claim 3, in which: R^1 , R^2 , R^4 and R^5 are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_5 alkyl group; n is 1 or 2; and W represents the $-\text{CH}_2-$ or $>\text{CO}$ group.

5. Compounds as claimed in Claim 4, in which R^3 represents a hydrogen atom, a C_1-C_5 aliphatic acyl group, or the benzoyl or nicotinoyl group.
6. Compounds as claimed in Claim 5, in which: R^1 and R^4 are the same or different and each represents a C_1-C_5 alkyl group; R^2 and R^5 are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; and R^3 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_4 aliphatic acyl group.
7. Compounds as claimed in Claim 1, in which: W represents the $-CH_2-$ or $>CO$ group; Y and Z both represent oxygen atoms; n is 1 or 2; R^1 and R^4 are the same or different and each represents a C_1-C_4 alkyl group; R^2 and R^5 are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; and R^3 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_4 aliphatic acyl group.
8. Compounds as claimed in Claim 7, in which n is 1.
9. Compounds as claimed in Claim 7 or Claim 8, in which W represents the $-CH_2-$ group.
10. The following compounds as claimed in Claim 1:

5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-yl-methoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

5-[4-(2-ethyl-6-hydroxy-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

5-[4-(6-hydroxy-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)-benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

5-[4-[2-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

5-[4-[2-(7-t-butyl-6-hydroxy-2-methylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

5-[4-[2-(6-hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxy-2,5-dimethylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,7-dimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)-benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2-isobutyl-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one

5-[4-(7-t-butyl-6-hydroxy-2-methylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)-benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one

5-[4-(2-ethyl-6-hydroxy-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one

5-[4-(6-hydroxy-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)-benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one

5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,7-dimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)-benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one

5-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)-benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

5-[4-(6-benzoyloxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

5-[4-(6-butyryloxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

5-[4-(2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-6-nicotinoyloxychroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

5-[4-(7-t-butyl-6-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-yl-methoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2-isobutyl-5,7,8-trimethyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one

5-[4-(7-t-butyl-6-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one

5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2-isobutyl-5,7,8-trimethyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one

5-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

5-[4-(6-acetoxy-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one

5-{4-[2-(6-acetoxy-7-t-butyl-2-methylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl}-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one

5-{4-[2-(6-acetoxy-7,8-dimethoxy-2,5-dimethylchroman-2-yl)ethoxy]benzyl}-2-iminothiazolidin-4-one

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

11. The following compounds as claimed in Claim 1:

5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)-benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

5-[4-(2-ethyl-6-hydroxy-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

5-[4-[2-(7-t-butyl-6-hydroxy-2-methylchroman-2-yl)-ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2-isobutyl-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

5-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)-benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

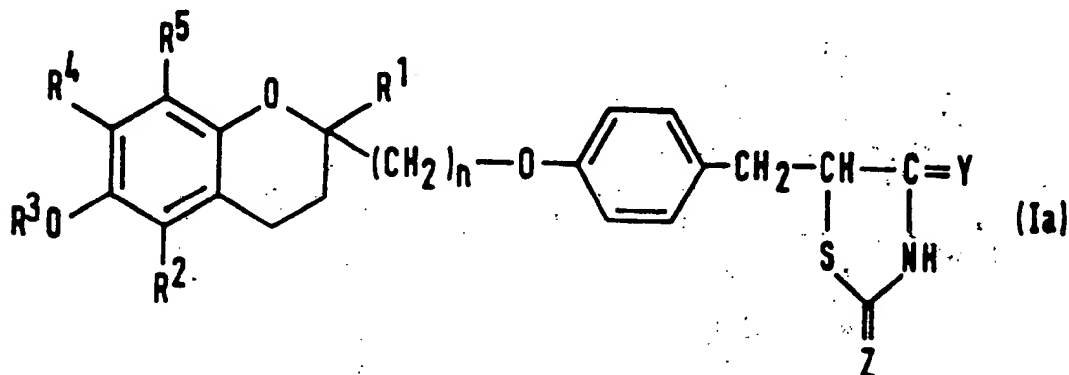
5-[4-(6-butyryloxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

5-[4-(7-t-butyl-6-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

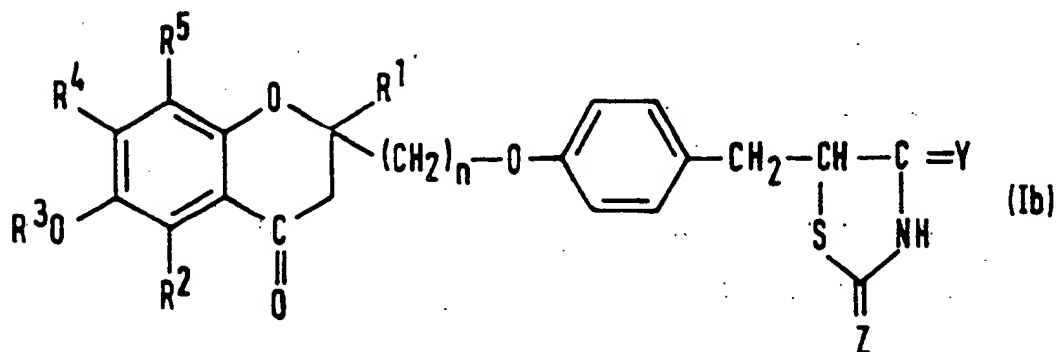
12. Compounds of formula (Ia):



[in which R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , n , Y and Z are as defined in Claim 1]

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

13. Compounds of formula (Ib):

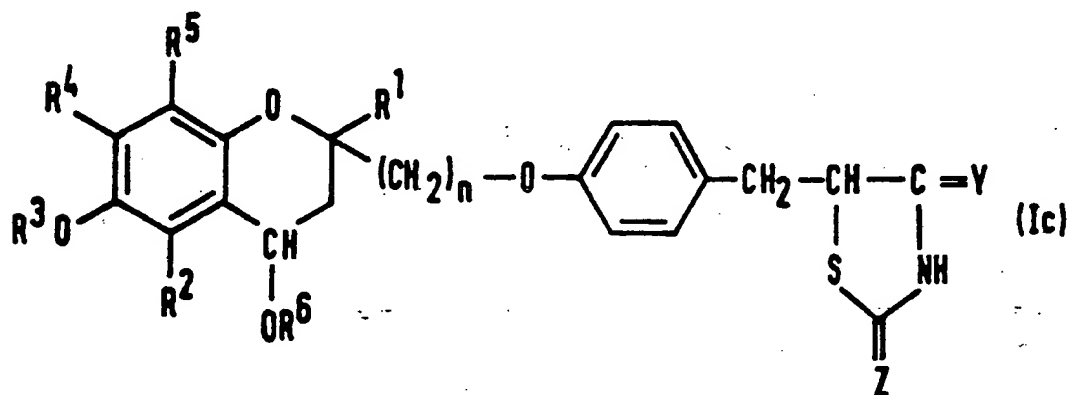


[in which R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , n , Y and Z are

as defined in Claim 1]

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

14. Compounds of formula (Ic):



[in which R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , n , Y and Z are as defined in Claim 1; and

R^6 represents any one of the atoms or groups defined for R^3 and may be the same as or different from R^3] and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

15. Compounds as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims, which are salts with cations.

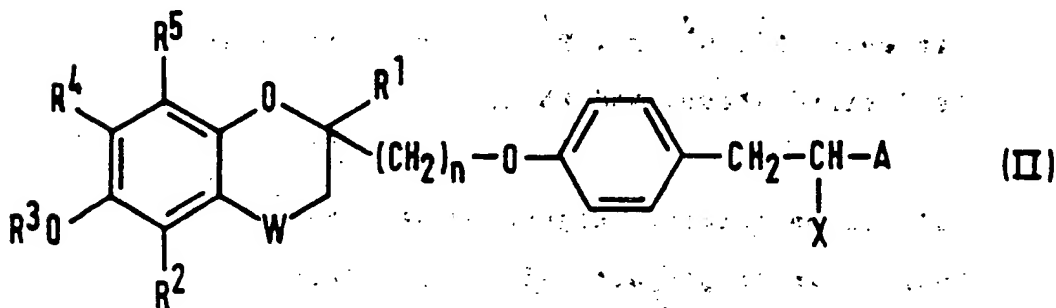
16. Compounds as claimed in Claim 15, in the form of the sodium salt.

17. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of hyperlipaemia or hyperglycaemia, which comprises at

least on active compound in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent, wherein said active compound is at least one compound as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims.

18. A process for preparing the compounds claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 16, which comprises:

(a) reacting a halopropionic acid derivative of formula (II):



[in which:

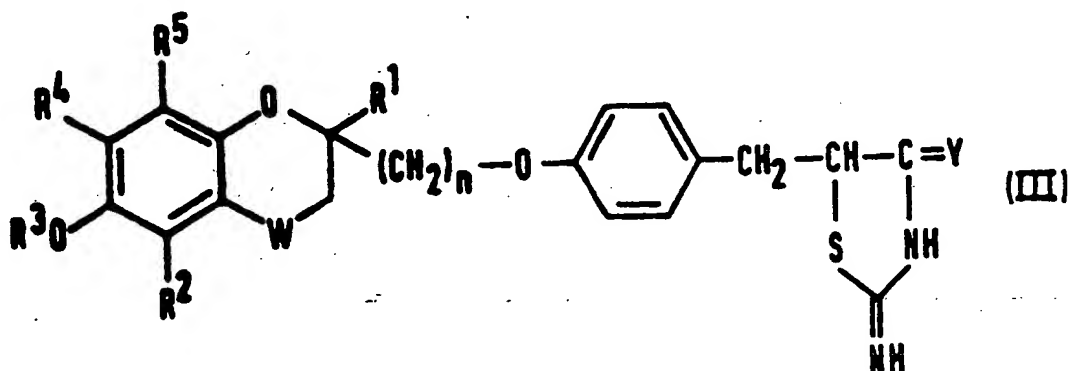
R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , n and W are as defined in

Claim 1;

X represents a halogen atom; and

A represents a cyano group, a carboxy group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, a carbamoyl group or a group of formula $-COO(M)_m$, in which M represents a cation and m represents the reciprocal of the valency of the cation M]

with thiourea. to give a compound of formula (III):



(in which R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , n , W and Y are as defined above) and then.

(b) if necessary, subjecting said compound to hydrolysis to prepare said compound of formula (I).

(c) optionally, where W represents a $>C=O$ group, reducing the compound produced in step (a) or step (b) to a compound where W represents a $>CH-OH$ group.

(d) optionally, where W represents a $>CH-OH$ group, acylating the compound to give a compound in which W represents a group of formula $>CH-OR^{6'}$ (in which $R^{6'}$ represents any of the groups defined for R^6 but not the hydrogen atom), and

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(e) if necessary, salifying the product.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

0139421

Application number

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			EP 84305922.1
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4)
A	<p><u>EP - A1 - 0 084 926</u> (TAKEDA)</p> <p>* Claim 1; page 2, lines 18-23 *</p> <p>--</p>	1,17	<p>C 07 D 417/12</p> <p>C 07 D 493/04</p> <p>A 61 K 31/425/</p>
A	<p><u>US - A - 3 954 765</u> (GILBERT REGNIER)</p> <p>* Abstract *</p> <p>--</p>	1,17	<p>(C 07 D 417/12</p> <p>C 07 D 277:34</p> <p>C 07 D 311:22)</p>
A	<p><u>DE - A1 - 3 115 152</u> (HOECHST)</p> <p>* Formula I *</p> <p>----</p>	1	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			<p>TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4)</p> <p>C 07 D 417/00</p> <p>C 07 D 493/00</p>
Place of search VIENNA		Date of completion of the search 15-11-1984	Examiner HAMMER
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone</p> <p>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category</p> <p>A : technological background</p> <p>O : non-written disclosure</p> <p>P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention</p> <p>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date</p> <p>D : document cited in the application</p> <p>L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			